

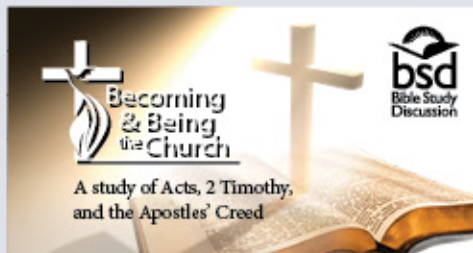
Coordinating Team

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



As the new year begins, so Bible Study Discussion (BSD) will begin the study of 2 Timothy. What a perfect opportunity to join a BSD small group! 2 Timothy is Paul's letter where he turns over leadership of the Church to Timothy and the next generation. Later in the spring, BSD will examine the Apostles' Creed. We invite you to join BSD at any of the five times it is offered. Childcare available.

Thursdays, 9:30-11:30 AM | Women
Sundays (1 hour), 9:45 AM or 11:15 AM | Co-ed
Wednesdays (1 hour), 5:00 PM | Co-ed
Wednesdays (1 hour), 6:30 PM | Women

Details and registration: bsd.mdpc.org

The White Rose is given in memory of

- Catherine Alexander, who passed away August 17, 2016.
- Grant Maveergeorge, who passed away December 7, 2016.

The Red Rose is given in honor of

- Rose Martin, born November 18, 2016, to Abbey and Chandler Martin.
- David McGuire, born December 13, 2016, to Lydia and Eric McGuire. David is the grandson of Vicky and Casey Jones.

Ministry Partners 2016

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

Yellowstone Academy is a high quality Christian private school exclusively serving children from low-income families in Houston's Third Ward. It is founded on the premise that, through education and intensive intervention, children can transcend the circumstances of poverty and grow up to become responsible, productive adults.
yellowstoneacademy.org

Transitions Foundation mobilizes disabled Guatemalans through rehabilitation, education, and spiritual development. MDPC's partner Alex Galvez co-founded Transitions to give dignity to the disabled as they work together to make custom wheelchairs and prosthetics. The diligence of the workers and excellent design of their products give new life to many with disabilities.
transitionsfoundation.org

Renewing Our Minds (ROM) in Croatia is led by MDPC field partners Tihomir and Christine Kukolja. It seeks to reconcile people of different faiths and cultures in the Balkan region by facilitating their study of the teachings of Jesus. Participants are chosen based on leadership potential, with the hope they will return to their home countries and impact their spheres of influence.
forumforleadership.blogspot.com

WEEKLY FINANCIAL UPDATE

OPERATING INCOME

2016 Annual Budget	\$ 11,050,000	100%
Actual Income to Date (Dec. 11, 2016)	\$ 8,470,334	77%
Needed to Meet 2016 Budget	\$ 2,579,666	23%

Pictured: Yellowstone Academy was founded in July 2001 to provide a high quality, faith-based education for economically disadvantaged students. Since its beginnings as preschool-only, aided in part by your giving through MDPC, Yellowstone has grown to serve students from Houston's inner-city neighborhoods through the 8th grade. >



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

Fourth Sunday of Advent
 December 18, 2016



The Unexpected

An Unexpected Response
 Matthew 1:18-25

Coming Up at MDPC

Important Note About Year-end Giving
 IRS guidelines do not allow us to process checks received on January 1 as 2016 contributions. Therefore checks placed in the offering plate or turned in at the Front Desk on Sunday, January 1, 2017 will not be reflected on 2016 giving statements, regardless of the date on the check.
 The Prayer Chapel dropbox will be accessible late on December 31 for last-minute check donations.
 Questions? Contact Becky Riggs: briggs@mdpc.org

Confirmation 2017
 Confirmation is for current 8th graders or above. In this step on their faith journey, students learn what it means to follow Jesus and be part of His Church.
 Sundays, January 8-March 5 | 11:00 AM-12:15 PM
 Register through Jan 8 (\$140): confirmation.mdpc.org

Recreational Classes for Kids and Adults
 MDPC has many educational and exciting classes! For kids and youth, we offer babysitting, ballet, basketball, cooking, dance, music, piano, soccer, tumbling, voice, and woodworking. Adults can enjoy art, strength training, piano, voice, and yoga.
 To register for a class, visit reach.mdpc.org, or contact Cathy or Jan at 713-490-9564 or reach@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

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

Roast & Toast of Brandon Gaide
 Join us to say goodbye to Brandon. 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.
 Today, 12:30-2:00 PM | Amphitheater

Save the Date: Annual CBGR Cook-Off
 Join us for another fun, family-friendly Saturday of food tastings, inflatables, live music, and more! This year's competition includes a dessert category, so start practicing your baking now...
 February 11 | 1:00 PM | Spring Valley Village Park
 \$35 to register a team, free to attend: cbgr.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 AND ASSURANCE OF PARDON		Dan Aikins
GIFTS OF GRATITUDE		
MESSAGE	An Unexpected Response (Matthew 1:18-25)	Alf Halvorson
RESPONSE OF THE PEOPLE		
*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION		

9:45 AM SERVICE

WORSHIP INVITATION		TBD
*CALL TO WORSHIP		
*MOMENT OF CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE		Kyle Collins
NEW MEMBERS		
GIFTS OF GRATITUDE		Dave Steane
MESSAGE	An Unexpected Response (Matthew 1:18-25)	Alf Halvorson
*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION		

Musicians in these services: Joe Gavito, guitar; Craig Gysler, keys; Joe Manuel Lopez, Michael Middleton, worship leaders; Asber Pudlo, drums; Dennis Whittaker, bass

11:15 AM SERVICE

PRELUDE	<i>Fantasy on Joy to the World</i>	arr. Kathryn White
WELCOME AND CALL TO WORSHIP		Dave Steane
CHORAL INTROIT	<i>Break Forth O Beauteous Heavenly Light (From Christmas Oratorio)</i>	J.S. Bach (1685-1750)
HYMN OF PRAISE	<i>Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus</i>	#2; Vs. 1, 2 HYFRYDOL
*PRAYER OF CONFESSION & ASSURANCE		Rick Myers
*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH	from the United Church of Canada	
*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE	<i>Angels We Have Heard on High</i>	#23; Vs. 3 GLORIA
ANTHEM	<i>Go Tell It on The Mountain</i>	arr. Carolyn Jennings (1925-2015)
OFFERTORY	<i>Mary, Did You Know?</i>	arr. Bruce Greer (b. 1961)
MESSAGE	An Unexpected Response (Matthew 1:18-25)	Alf Halvorson
*HYMN OF RESPONSE	<i>O Come, O Come, Emmanuel</i>	#9; Vs. 3 VENI EMMANUEL
*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION		
POSTLUDE	<i>Shepherd's Noel</i>	arr. J. Wayne Kerr (b. 1956)

Musicians in this service: Charles Hausmann, conductor; Kathryn White, organist/pianist; Adrian Vasquez, prelude pianist

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.

MDPC
Concert Series
2016-2017
concerts.mdpc.org



Johann Sebastian Bach Christmas Oratorio

Tonight! 6:00 PM | Sanctuary

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!

Free and open to the public. Invite your friends and family! For more on the series, visit concerts.mdpc.org.



Today Is the LAST DAY to

Shop Mission Market

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.

Visit us in the Chapel and Sanctuary Lobbies, this morning between services.

Mission Market
Christmas Cards

Married Life Prep



Getting ready for a lifetime commitment...

A fun, four-week marriage prep course for engaged and newly married couples.

SUNDAYS, JANUARY 8-29
10:00 AM-12:00 PM

Visit mlp.mdpc.org to register!

Couples that complete the course can receive \$60 off their marriage license fee through the Together in Texas initiative.

Holiday Worship!

Christmas Eve, December 24

Contemporary Family Service at 4:00 PM

Led by Radriel Poysevy and Alf Halvorson; nativity petting zoo in the Sanctuary Oreezewon

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 Gretl Hurst

New Year's Day, January 1

Blended Service at 9:45 AM

Dan Aikins preaching

The Unexpected

holiday.mdpc.org

MDPC NEW MEMBERS

Sunday, December 18, 2016



Argentina Barrios is studying medicine and English. She decided to become a doctor so she could serve the community at a missionary clinic. Her passion is to serve. She likes to volunteer in the MDPC Fuente Food Pantry.



Gilmar Barrios and **Bernarda Molina** are the parents of new member Argentina Barrios. Gilmar works at Fuzzy's Pizza and enjoys sports. Bernarda works in beauty-product sales. She likes watching movies and volunteering in the MDPC Fuente Food Pantry.



Rosalía Castillo has one daughter, Génesis Guillen (13). Rosalía is a housekeeper and enjoys home décor and dancing. Her passion is witnessing and volunteering in the MDPC Fuente Food Pantry.



Daniel Chávez and **Maria Galván** have two children, Rubén and Alondra. Maria likes to bake and do crafts. Daniel is a dental assistant and enjoys reading and painting.



Jerrit and Christina Coward are the parents of two children, Sydney (13) and Hutch (12). Jerrit is an energy executive. He enjoys fishing and reading. Christina is a stay-at-home mom. She loves to read, play tennis, travel, and spend time with her kids.



Sarah Foss is married to Todd and they have two children, Matthew (3) and Grace (22 months). Sarah is an attorney.



Greg and Laura Kieschnick have two children, Margo (11) and Kenley (8). Greg is a senior project manager for Houston Community College. He enjoys reading, bike riding, and watching his kid's activities. Laura is the lead contacts manager at BMC Software, Inc. She enjoys reading, shopping, sewing, swimming, crafts, and time with friends and family.



Ines Kochman-Scott has two adult children and four grandchildren.



Maurilio Leyva works in maintenance. He enjoys volunteering, riding his bicycle, and praying for others.



James Louis is the husband of MDPC member, Barbara James. They have three adult children, and two grandchildren, Raegan (7) and Mason (7 months). Louis is a part-time clerk for Walgreens and a high school football referee. He enjoys golfing, reading, and walking.



Bill and Sharon McCloskey have three children, Sydney (16), Haley (14), and Riley (12). Bill is a public relations and marketing director for Houston Distributing Company. He enjoys sports and outdoor activities. Sharon is an Ob-Gyn with Greater Houston Ob-Gyn. She enjoys helping others and spending time with family.



Raúl Montejo and Damaris Abreu are the parents of Raúl, Laura, and Claudia. Damaris is an ordained pastor in the Presbyterian Church in Cuba and babysits in her spare time. She enjoys singing, dancing, and fellowship with friends and family. Raúl is a medical doctor. He enjoys reading, talking about sports, and sharing time with his family.



Alexis Paz and Daysi Granados are the parents of Cristian, David, and Esmeralda. Alex works in construction and remodeling. Daysi is a housekeeper and volunteers in the MDPC Fuente Food Pantry.



Blas and Maria Pineda - Blas works in maintenance. Maria works in housekeeping, and enjoys taking walks and gardening.



Rubén Dario Rodas and Bibiana Andrea Cano are the parents of Madeleine and Ashly Rodas. Rubén works in construction. He enjoys watching sports and working as a volunteer. Bibiana likes crafts.

IS IT TIME FOR YOU TO JOIN **MDPC**?

DISCOVER **MDPC** WITH ALF

Attend an informational meeting to learn more about MDPC. No commitment required! A great opportunity to explore church membership and what it would mean to be part of our faith community.

Sunday, January 8 | 10:45-11:10 AM | Gathering Room

NEW MEMBER CLASS

The New Member Class series is for those interested in membership. They are taught by the associate pastors and elders, and include a Saturday service project.

Sundays, January 15-February 19 | 9:45-11:00 AM | Summit Room

Visit membership.mdpc.org for additional dates and to register for New Member Classes, or contact Diann Turet, Membership Director (dturet@mdpc.org or 713-490-9553).



MDPC Memorial Drive Presbyterian Church

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

The Unexpected

An Unexpected Response

Matthew 1:18-25

This is the fourth Sunday in Advent, and our title is “An Unexpected Response.” Joseph finds out that the woman to whom he is betrothed, Mary, is pregnant. According to Matthew 1:20, he already has decided what he will do, which is to divorce her quietly. But God, through an angel, changes Joseph’s mind...

1. We have heard this story so many times that it’s hard to see anything new in it. After I explained what the terms *engaged*, *dismiss*, and *righteous man* mean from verses 18-19, what became new or different for you in this passage?
2. Read verses 20-23. From these verses, what changed Joseph’s mind regarding Mary and going through with the marriage?
3. If you had been Joseph, how might you have felt? What do you think you would have done?
4. Why do you think it was important for Matthew to include verses 24 and 25? What does each verse add to the narrative? What would we miss without these two sections?
5. Joseph sets aside his previous conclusion (verse 20) to be faithful to God. He changed his mind. When, if ever, has God changed your mind?
6. Where, this Christmas, have you written something or someone off, but God might want you to set aside your conclusions in order to be faithful in a new way?
7. How might you open yourself up to that possibility? How would God need to get through to you regarding the proposed change?
8. I told a story about Stanley Hauerwas, who grew up in Texas but moved to become an academic at Duke—a Professor of Theology in the Duke Divinity School and Professor of Ethics at Duke Medical School. I talked about the letter of the law and the spirit of the law, and that Hauerwas was so worried about keeping his academic integrity that he missed receiving his dad’s offering of love. Have you ever fallen into a trap like that? How might Christmas 2016 be different?

