

Sunday, October 8, 2017

THE FIRST DISCIPLES

Lessons from the Master

Philip - John 14:1-14



Coming Up at MDPC

Join Pastor Alf as a Partner In Prayer

Through MDPC's Partners In Prayer program, thousands of people are prayed for every day. God uses the power of this quiet ministry to bring health, life, and peace to our church family.

Visit our table on Sign-up Sundays, Oct. 15-22!

Online registration opens soon at pip.mdpc.org.

The Well Women's Speaker Series: "Pursued"

We all long to be pursued...but we don't always feel lovable. We don't always feel worthy. Join us at The Well, our semi-annual gathering for women of all ages and faith stages to connect. Hear a panel of real women tell their stories of God's relentless love and pursuit.

Wednesday, Oct. 18 | 6:30-8:00 PM | Chapel

Join us for refreshments at 6:00 in the Parlor.

RSVP: thewell.mdpc.org

Kids' Meals Monthly Service Project

In Houston, one in four preschool children goes to bed hungry, but you can make a difference! Simply give one hour of your time, bring four loaves of bread per sandwich-maker, and make sandwiches for Kids' Meals.

Wednesday, Oct. 11 | 5:00-6:00 PM | Fellowship Hall

Contact Julie with questions: hempeljulie@gmail.com

Prime Timers: The Right Book

Valerie Koehler from Blue Willow Books will discuss *The Right Book for the Right Time*, a topic that is sure to pique everyone's interest!

Tuesday, Oct. 17 | 11:00 AM Program; Lunch (\$10) Noon

Reserve lunch by dropping a \$10-check made out to MDPC Prime Timers at the Front Office by Oct. 11.

Elementary Pizza Parties

Come eat pizza & play games at your grade's Pizza Party! K and 1st grade partied in September and will get to again in the spring, but there still is lots of food and fun in store.

2nd & 3rd Grade: Sunday, Oct. 22 | 12:30-2:30 PM

4th & 5th Grade: Friday, Nov. 10 | 6:00-8:30 PM

RSVP to Mallory Moore: mmoore@mdpc.org

Can We Trust the Bible?

Oscar Villanueva leads Fifth Community in a two-week series to explore the evidence we have that the Bible IS trustworthy and relevant! Bring all your skeptical questions for our Q&A time each week. This series is open to ANYONE - all ages and faith stages.

Sundays, Oct. 29 and Nov. 5 | 11:00 AM | Amphitheater

Details: trustworthy.mdpc.org

Today: Harvey Debrief Meeting

Licensed counselors Tim Mavergeorge and Stacey Sadler will discuss how to deal with grief related to Harvey as well as the impact on our children; then contractors Mike Reily and Harry Tallichet will offer perspective on what to expect and answer questions about the rebuilding process. Stephen Ministers will be available for prayer.

11:15 AM-12:30 PM | Amphitheater

Theology On Tap: Faith & Politics

Is God a Republican or a Democrat? Come hear conservative and progressive guest speakers explain how they reconcile their Christian beliefs with their political party.

Free craft beer & food! Open to Young Adults (20s & 30s)

Tuesday, Oct. 17, 7:00-9:00 PM | Kindred (Montrose)

Details: facebook.com/theologyontaphouston

Pastor-led Wednesday Night Study

Calvinism in the Las Vegas Airport

What do the Canons of Dort mean to people in the Las Vegas airport - and does anyone even care? This book study will encourage you to live every aspect of life - business, family, education, politics, and more - before the face of a generous, sovereign God.

Wednesdays, Oct. 25-Nov. 15

Details and registration: airport.mdpc.org

Ambassadors for a Better World

Global missionaries Tihomir and Christine Kukolja lead an evening of stories from MDPC members who attended ROM's (Renewing Our Minds) leadership and reconciliation gathering in Croatia. Special guests will be musical artists from Romania and Norway. All are welcome!

Wednesday, Oct. 25 | 6:30 PM | Parlor

Trunk or Treat (Hosted by MDPC Dads)

Enjoy trick-or-treating from car trunk to car trunk and other family-friendly activities. Awards given for Best Trunk and Best Candy, so come in costume and ready to have fun! Open to the community.

Sunday, Oct. 29 | 3:45-5:00 PM | Ball Field & North Lot

Sign up enter your car trunk: treat.mdpc.org

Marriage Retreat

Spend time relaxing and reconnecting with your spouse! Get away for a weekend of fabulous amenities, a comfortable atmosphere, one-on-one date night, and expert teaching from Brett and Kellie Hurst.

Oct. 21-22 | Woodlands Waterway Marriott | \$215

Details and registration: marriageretreat.mdpc.org

MDPC Concert Series

2017-2018



Internationally Award-winning Organist

KATELYN EMERSON

Tonight! 7:00 PM | Sanctuary

concerts.mdpc.org | Free and open to the public!

8:30 AM BLENDED - 9:45 AM CONTEMPORARY

WELCOME	Dave Steane (8:30), Worship Team (9:45)	
*SONGS OF PRAISE		
*PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE OF PARDON	Rachel Poysky (8:30), Tara Reynolds (9:45)	
SONG OF RESPONSE		
GIFTS OF GRATITUDE		
MESSAGE	The First Disciples: Philip	Alf Halvorson
RESPONSE OF THE PEOPLE		

Musicians in these services: Gisele Duque and Michael Middleton, worship leaders • Joe Gavito, guitar • Craig Gysler, keys • Asher Pudlo, drums • Dennis Whittaker, bass

11:15 AM TRADITIONAL

PRELUDE	<i>Choral in E Major</i>	César Franck (1822-1890)
WELCOME AND CALL TO WORSHIP	Dave Steane	
*HYMN OF PRAISE	<i>Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah</i>	#281; Vs. 1, 3 LAUDES DOMINI
*PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE	Rachel Poysky	
*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH from The Apostles' Creed		
ANTHEM	<i>When Morning Gilds the Skies</i>	arr. Anna Laura Page
OFFERTORY	<i>I Am With You Always</i>	John Rutter (b. 1945)/arr. White
MESSAGE	The First Disciples: Philip	Alf Halvorson
*HYMN OF RESPONSE	<i>Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart</i>	#326; Vs. 1, 2 MORECAMBE
POSTLUDE	<i>Psalms XX</i>	Benedetto Marcello (1686-1739)

Musicians in this service: Charles Hausmann, conducting • Kathryn White, organ • Danny Wilson, trumpet/flugelhorn

ROLLING CONGREGATIONAL MEETING TODAY

Following each of the services above, there will be a Congregational Meeting to present the Nominating Committee's candidate for MDPC Equipping Ministries Pastor, followed by a vote on the motion to call the candidate. If you did not receive a candidate info piece/ballot, they are available from the ushers.

PRAY FOR MDPC MINISTRY PARTNERS

This week, please pray for these partners MDPC assists with your support:

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

The Rose's mission is to reduce deaths from breast cancer by providing screening, diagnosis, and access to treatment, regardless of a patient's ability to pay. Last year they helped over 9,000 uninsured women.
the-rose.org

Faith In Practice works to improve the physical, spiritual, and economic conditions of Guatemala's poor through short-term medical mission trips and health education. The doctors, nurses, and dentists who volunteer are called by God to demonstrate the love and compassion that is a sign of His presence among us.
faithinpractice.org

HURRICANE HARVEY RELIEF EFFORTS

Affected Families & Individuals: If you need a hand with clean up, reach out to Beverly Fluke (bfluke@mdpc.org).

Relief Fund: Donations have become more important than ever as homes and lives are rebuilt. To give a designated Harvey Relief gift, visit give.mdpc.org.

TODAY'S CHANCEL FLOWERS ARE GIVEN

- in memory of Bob Rupley, who passed away September 26, 2009, by his loving family and grandchildren.
- by Lee and Larry Mueller, in memory of Ann Shidell Mueller and in celebration of her life.

WEEKLY FINANCIAL UPDATE

2017 Operating Budget	\$ 11,400,000
Expected Income to Date	\$ 6,333,456
Actual Income to Date (Oct. 1, 2017)	\$ 5,978,648
Current Income Deficit	\$ 354,808
Needed to Meet 2017 Budget	\$ 5,421,352
Hurricane Harvey Relief Fund	\$ 671,537

ERIC METAXAS

#1 New York Times BESTSELLING AUTHOR

Tuesday, October 10

Tickets are required, but free when you register:
speakers.mdpc.org



Coming to
MDPC Tuesday!



Meet the Rev. Dr. Clay Brown

MDPC's Pastor Nominating Committee is pleased to announce the nomination of the Rev. Dr. Clay Brown as the candidate for the Equipping Ministries Associate Pastor. At the end of today's services, in a rolling congregational meeting, we will officially vote on his nomination.

Personal Information

- Married to Mary Catherine "Cathy" Blake Brown since December 20, 1980.
- Three adult children Taylor Catherine Brown in San Antonio, TX; Blake Jonathan Brown in Gastonia, NC; Collin Joseph Brown in College Station, TX.



Education

- Ph.D., Philosophy and Apologetics, Trinity Theological Seminary, Newburgh, IN, with the University of Liverpool, 2005; Dissertation: C. S. Lewis and Postmodernism: Areas of Convergence and Areas of Divergence.
- M.Div., Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary, 1988.
- M.A., Communication, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, 1985.

Recent Experience

- **May 2012-present:** Senior Pastor, Westminster Presbyterian Church, Amarillo, TX, 500 members. Serve presently as the primary preacher, teacher, pastoral visitor, and moderator of Session. Led transition from the Presbyterian Church (USA) to ECO: A Covenant Order of Evangelical Presbyterians with a 192-1 affirmative congregational vote. Initiator of Lenten small groups, Sunday morning pastor-led class, and increased hands-on participation by WPC members with local mission organizations.
- **June 2006-May 2012:** Senior Pastor, First Presbyterian Church, Mooresville, NC, 800 members. Primary preacher, teacher, pastoral visitor, and moderator of Session. Originator of community fund raiser (5K race) for local social ministry needs. Instigator of Lenten and fall small group programs, Sunday morning "Pastors' Class," and mission trips to the Yucatan Peninsula and Louisiana.
- **August 1999-June 2006:** Associate Pastor for Christian Formation and Discipleship, Grace Presbyterian Church, Houston, TX, 4500 members. Director for all educational and small group ministries of church.

Certifications

- Ordained Minister and Member of the Presbytery of Texas and Louisiana, ECO, March 2015-present.
- Nonprofit Management Program certification, Center for Professional Education, University of Texas at Austin, 2016.
- Ordained Minister, Presbyterian Church (USA), August 1999-March 2015.
- Ordained Minister, Cumberland Presbyterian Church, May 1988-August 1999.
- Interim Pastor Training: Part 1

Statement Of Faith

I became a Christian at age 15 after a fall revival service at the church of my youth, Bethany Baptist Church, Dallas, Texas, praying with a friend in his old Ford Mustang to commit to Christ as my Lord and Savior. Since then, I have grown in my understanding of Christian faith and practice and in my sense of calling over the years



to the point that I have devoted the bulk of my adult life to serving as a minister, primarily in Presbyterian circles. I treasure both my Baptist and Presbyterian heritages and find them compatible on what C. S. Lewis called “mere Christianity,” the central core of Christian doctrine and deed that resonates with me.

Therefore, I affirm the following without hesitation:

- God as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, the only true and living God.
- Scripture as the uniquely inspired, infallible, true, and trustworthy authority for Christian faith and practice.
- The power of the gospel of grace to reconcile human beings with God, and our response to God’s grace through confession, repentance, personal trust in, and commitment to Jesus Christ as His disciple.
- The importance of the five “solas” of the Protestant Reformation for Christian doctrine: Christ alone, grace alone, faith alone, Scripture alone, and to God alone be glory!
- The classic emphases of the Reformed theological tradition.
- The presence and power of the Holy Spirit for Christian living, service, and maturity.
- The significance of the Great Commission (Matthew 28:16-20) and the Great Commandment (Matthew 22:34-40).
- The equality of men and women of all ethnicities and nationalities in service/ministry.
- The Church as the Body of Christ and the community of faith that includes and transcends congregations and denominations.

MDPC Congregational Meeting

Sunday, October 8, 2017

Motion #1

To call the Rev. Dr. Clay Brown as Associate Pastor for Equipping Ministries at Memorial Drive Presbyterian Church, effective November 1, 2017

YES NO

Motion #2

To approve the following terms of call for Dr. Brown:

Annual Salary (includes housing allowance and Social Security supplement)	\$104,500
Annual Benefits	
403(b)(9), Medical (For self & spouse)	\$30,998
Professional Development Allowance (Cumulative for 3 years)	\$1450
Books, Professional Dues	\$500
4 weeks of Vacation	
2 weeks of Professional Development Leave (Cumulative for 3 years)	

YES NO

Please pass your completed ballot to the right where ushers will pick them up at the end of the aisles.

THE FIRST DISCIPLES

Lessons from the Master

Philip • John 14:1-14

Alf Halvorson preaching

This is the second to last sermon in a series on learning discipleship from *The First Disciples*. Today we look at Philip, who, in the Gospels of Matthew, Mark, and Luke, is only a name in the listing of the Twelve Disciples. But in John, he becomes a person with a personality.

In all four gospels, Philip is always fifth in listings of The Twelve; he is not part of the big four (Peter, Andrew, James, John).

However, in John chapter 1, Philip is the first disciple to which Jesus says, "Follow Me." Philip goes and gets his friend Nathanael, who has questions to which Philip replies, "Come and see." Then in John 6, during the feeding of the 5,000, Jesus tests Philip by saying, "Where will we buy bread for these to eat?" Philip replies, "Six months wages wouldn't buy enough bread for each to get a little." He can't see a solution. And in our text for today, Philip's eyesight still is weak.

1. Read John 14:1-6. On the night in which He is betrayed, Jesus gives the disciples a New Commandment (John 13:31-35) and then predicts Peter's three denials (John 13:36-38). Right after those two challenges, Jesus tries to comfort His apprentices, who are troubled. What does He actually say in the first four verses of chapter 14?
2. How does Thomas respond in verse 5? And what is Jesus' answer in verses 6-7? Compare verses 6 and 7 to Acts 4:12. What promise can you count on from those verses?
3. In what ways do these first seven verses comfort you when you are troubled?
4. What does Philip ask for in verse 8?
5. Read verses 9-14 to see Jesus' answer. First, what does Jesus say? What isn't Philip seeing, according to Jesus?
6. I talked in my sermon about the importance of Jesus being fully God and fully human. Why do you think it is important that Jesus is human like us? And why, do you think, is it crucial that Jesus is really God? What is lost or missed if He is one but not the other?
7. I quoted Wynton Marsalis from the Ken Burns series, *Jazz*, who said, "Sometimes a thing and the opposite of a thing are true at the same time." What is an example of the truth of that statement, from your life or in the world? What would you say is your takeaway from Jesus' conversation with Philip? What from verses 12-14 does Jesus say will be true for us?

