

Sunday, October 15, 2017

THE FIRST DISCIPLES

Lessons from the Master
Judas Iscariot & Doubting Thomas



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 today in the Breezeway!

Online registration is open at pip.mdpc.org.

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

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: m Moore@mdpc.org

Pastor-led Wednesday Night Study

Calvinism in the Las Vegas Airport

What do the Canons of Dordt 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

Sing the Christmas Concert!

Want to sing with the choir in concert without Sunday commitments? Come for a workshop to learn the music for our December 17 choral Christmas concert. Breakfast served at 9:00 AM. All are welcome to sing!

Workshop: Saturday, Oct. 28 | 9:30 AM-12:30 PM

Contact Tracy Stidam with questions: tstidam@mdpc.org

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 to enter your car trunk: treat.mdpc.org

Thanksgiving Meal in a Bag Drive

Share Christ's love with a Spring Branch family in need this Thanksgiving. Simply pick up a grocery bag, fill it from the list of food products that'll be attached to the bag, and drop it off at MDPC the following Sunday. MDPC has 1,000 bags to fill this year - it's the most we've ever had, so we need your help!

Bag Pick-up: Sunday, Nov. 5

Bag Drop-off: Sunday, Nov. 12

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

Discover MDPC with Alf

Want to know more about MDPC? Thinking about membership? This info meeting is about who we are and how we operate, within our walls and out in the world.

Sunday, Oct. 29 | 10:45-11:10 AM | Gathering Room

New Member Class

If you are interested in membership, or in becoming a Christian, any of our pastors would love to meet you and discuss your questions! Classes are taught by our Pastors and Elders, and include a Saturday service project.

Sundays, Nov. 5-Dec. 10 | 11:00 AM-12:15 PM | Parlor

To register, visit membership.mdpc.org.

ECO National Gathering in Houston: Renovate

God calls us to renew, revitalize, and *renovate* how the denomination approaches our congregations, our communities, and our covenants. MDPC members are encouraged to attend. Early-bird rates last through Oct. Speakers include Condoleezza Rice, Ed Stetzer, and Kyle Strobel.

Tuesday-Thursday, Jan. 23-25 | Hilton Americas

Details and registration: econationalgathering.org



THE WELL SEMI-ANNUAL
WOMEN'S SPEAKER SERIES

"PURSUED"

"Your beauty and love chase after me." We long to be pursued. Chased. Loved. But, as women, we don't always feel lovable. We don't always feel wanted. We don't always feel worthy...

Come hear a panel of real, honest women tell their stories of God's relentless love and pursuit.

WEDNESDAY, OCT. 18 • 6:30-8:00 PM • CHAPEL
LIGHT SNACKS @ 6:00 PM • PARLOR

RSVP and reserve free childcare:

THEWELL.MDPC.ORG



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**

Brett Hurst (8:30), Kyle Collins (9:45)

SONG OF RESPONSE**THIRD GRADE BIBLES**

William Arriaga	Meredith Cunningham	Hunter Gilbert	Rachel Poysky, Mallory Moore, Alf Halvorson
Westy Bennett	Matthew Dang	Sidney Going	Emily Rouse
Jack Brown	Connor Dillard	Raegan Johnson	Jacob Settle
Davis Cooper	Charles Dina	Tanner Rao	Grace Stoer

GIFTS OF GRATITUDE**MESSAGE****Judas Iscariot & Doubting Thomas** (Mt. 26:14-16, 20-25; 27:1-7; Jn. 20:25-28)

Alf Halvorson

RESPONSE OF THE PEOPLE

Musicians in these services: Meliza Gómez and Michael Middleton, worship leaders • Joe Gavito, guitar • Craig Gysler, keys • Asher Pudlo, drums • Dennis Whittaker, bass • The Music Box Kids' Choir (9:45)

11:15 AM TRADITIONAL**PRELUDE***Meditation*

George Dyson (1883-1964)

WELCOME AND CALL TO WORSHIP

Dave Steane

CHORAL INTROIT*Speak, O Lord*

arr. John Ferguson (b.1941)

HYMN OF PRAISEMy Hope Is Built on Nothing Less*

#379; Vs. 1, 2, 4 | SOLID ROCK

PRAYER OF CONFESSION & ASSURANCE**AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** from 1 Corinthians 15:1-6 & Colossians 1:15-20**ANTHEM***The Morning Trumpet*

arr. Michael Richardson

THIRD GRADE BIBLES

Patsy Buck	Elizabeth Masraff	Caroline Peterson	Rachel Poysky, Mallory Moore, Alf Halvorson
Anne Hinde	Brennan McKnight	Abby Schroeter	Emily Vargas
Kate Isaacs	Ethan McKnight	Joshua Scimemi	
Ryan Khatiblou	Carson Moerer	Katherine Varady	

OFFERTORY*All Who Dwell in the Shadow of the Lord*

Z. Randall Stroope (b.1953)

MESSAGE**Judas Iscariot & Doubting Thomas** (Mt. 26:14-16, 20-25; 27:1-7; Jn. 20:25-28)

Alf Halvorson

HYMN OF RESPONSEWhere Cross the Crowded Ways of Life*

#408; Vs. 1, 4 | GERMANY

POSTLUDE*Fanfare*

Jacques Lemmens (1823-1881)

Musicians in this service: Charles Hausmann, conducting • Kathryn White, organ

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING NEXT SUNDAY

There will be a rolling congregational meeting following each of the three morning services to vote on the candidate for Caring Ministries Associate Pastor. Immediately following the 9:45 service, there will be a traditional congregational meeting to elect the Elder Class of 2020, the 2018 Trustees, and the 2019 Nominating Committee.

Sunday, October 22**PRAY FOR MDPC MINISTRY PARTNERS**

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

The Salvation Army is an international evangelical Christian ministry operating shelters and transitional housing facilities in Houston. Motivated by the love of God, its mission is to preach the Gospel while meeting the needs of the community's homeless through comprehensive care and programs that foster recovery. salvationarmyhouston.org

Santa Maria Hostel empowers mothers to become alcohol and drug free. It is Texas' largest multi-site residential and outpatient substance abuse treatment center and one of few providing a continuum of care to pregnant and parenting women and their children. santamariahostel.org

Faith Ministry meets the basic physical needs of families living in poverty in Reynosa, Mexico, and, in so doing, shares the love of Jesus Christ. Through home construction, medical, feeding, child sponsorship, and skills training programs, it cares for the community. Mission teams are invited to partner in its work! faithministry.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.**THE CHANCEL FLOWERS ARE GIVEN BY**

Bob Lemer, in loving memory of Joyce Lemer.

THE WHITE ROSE IS IN MEMORY OF

- Eila Park, who passed away September 24, 2017.
- Jim Towsen, who passed away September 25, 2017.
- Art Spillette, who passed away September 26, 2017.

WEEKLY FINANCIAL UPDATE

2017 Operating Budget	\$ 11,400,000
Expected Income to Date	\$ 6,490,075
Actual Income to Date (Oct. 8, 2017)	\$ 6,149,063
Current Income Deficit	\$ 341,012
Needed to Meet 2017 Budget	\$ 5,250,937
Hurricane Harvey Relief Fund	\$ 688,484



Loving God. Proclaiming Christ. Living Generously. Engaging All.

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

THE FIRST DISCIPLES

Lessons from the Master

Judas and Thomas

Matt. 26:14-16, 20-25; 27:1-7 & Jn. 20:24-29

Alf Halvorson preaching

This is the last in a series of messages we have been preaching on learning discipleship from *The First Disciples*.

Both Judas and Thomas play pivotal roles near the end of Jesus' life. How do they compare and contrast? Both make mistakes, and both are chastised by Jesus, but one dies lost and alone while the other is restored to the community of faith and in his relationship with Christ. How can we, in the end, be like the second disciple and not the first one?

1. Judas Iscariot is the most notorious and universally scorned of all the disciples. Read Matt. 26:14-16, 20-25, and 47-50, and 27:1-7. What actions did he take? How did Jesus react to his actions? When Judas found out that Jesus was condemned, what did he do?
2. There are many theories as to why Judas betrayed Jesus. I mentioned several in my sermon. In your mind, what was the reason or reasons?
3. There is a church in Eastern Pennsylvania that has an impressive chapel. There is a life-sized painting of Jesus with the twelve disciples. To facilitate meditation, there are twelve chairs placed in a semi-circle around the painting. The back of each chair is labeled with one of the disciple's names. The chair that gets the heaviest use and suffers the most wear is the Judas chair. Why do you think that is the case? How do you identify with Judas?
4. Now let's take a look at Thomas. Read John 20:19-29. Do you know why Thomas was not with the other disciples (verses 19-23) when Jesus appeared the first time? Speculate. Why might he have been absent?
5. What does John 20:24-25 say the other disciples did after Jesus had appeared to them? What did they say exactly? What was Thomas' response?
6. Verse 26 says that "A week later His disciples were *again* in the house, and *Thomas was with them.*" In Luke 4:16, it says about Jesus, "When He came to Nazareth, where He had been brought up, He went to the synagogue on the Sabbath day, *as was His custom.*" Talk about the significance or insignificance of regular worship, fellowship, and community with other disciples. Who might benefit from joining your small group? What is your custom regarding worship and fellowship?
7. Thomas makes one of the greatest affirmations of faith in all of Scripture (John 20:28b—*My Lord and my God*), right up there with Peter's profession of faith in Matthew 16:16. What, if anything, did Jesus do to convince Thomas that He had been raised from the dead and was worthy of worship?
8. Verse 29 seems to be for people who have lived after the original disciples, including us. How do you hear Jesus' challenge? Are you blessed? Do you believe in Jesus as your Savior? And how has this series on discipleship helped you to become closer to Christ and to follow Him as Lord? In other words, how has your discipleship changed, grown, developed, been transformed?

