

**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](http://pip.mdpc.org).

**Pastor-led Wednesday Night Study  
Calvinism in the Airport**

Calvinism at the Airport will encourage you to live every aspect of life - business, family, education, politics, activities, and more - before the face of a generous, sovereign God. Does Calvinism have anything to do with the 21st Century? Let's find out together.

Wednesdays, Oct. 25-Nov. 15 | 6:30-7:30 PM  
Details and registration: [airport.mdpc.org](http://airport.mdpc.org)

**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  
Questions? Contact Tracy Stidam: [tstidam@mdpc.org](mailto:tstidam@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. We have 1,000 bags to fill this year - it's the most we've ever had, so we need your help!

Pick up an item list at the Front Office. Drop off filled bags in the grocery carts on campus by Nov. 12.

**Bless Friday 2017**

This year, Bless Friday is supporting MDPC's Hunger Initiative that fights hunger in Houston. Sign up to serve lunch at one of three local ministry partners, or round up your family and friends to do one of the at-home service projects of making emergency lunch bags for preschoolers or bagging beans and rice.

Friday, Nov. 24 | At-home, or in the community!  
Details and registration: [blessfriday.mdpc.org](http://blessfriday.mdpc.org)

**Pray for MDPC Ministry Partners**

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

**Scripture Awakening** (Bible in 90 Days) provides resources to encourage people to read, study, and live the Bible and to awaken the world to the power of God's Word.  
[scriptureawakening.com](http://scriptureawakening.com)

**SEARCH Homeless Services** helps thousands of men, women, and children each year with necessities such as food, showers, and laundry services. Its ultimate goal is for clients to achieve some stability so they can move into permanent housing and increase their incomes.  
[searchhomeless.org](http://searchhomeless.org)

**Far East Broadcasting Company (FEBC)** broadcasts the Good News in more than 100 languages in 40 countries. It focuses on meeting the spiritual needs of its listeners and seeks to invite the least-reached people of the world into the Kingdom.  
[febc.org](http://febc.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 & Nov. 5 | 11:00 AM | Amphitheater  
Details: [trustworthy.mdpc.org](http://trustworthy.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 | MDPC North Lot  
Sign up to enter your car trunk: [treat.mdpc.org](http://treat.mdpc.org)

**Human Trafficking Evening of Education**

To begin fighting this insidious crime, we must first educate ourselves. A victim will share her story, and speakers include Children at Risk's staff attorney; a Houston-area energy executive, anti-trafficking advocate, and father of a victim; and commander of HPD's Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force.

Tuesday, Nov. 14 | 7:00 PM | Sanctuary  
[justice.mdpc.org](http://justice.mdpc.org)

**Women's Spiritual Retreat**

Connect with Jesus and others at a beautiful ranch getaway. Enjoy one-on-one time with God, as well as opportunities for fellowship, yoga, or just a long walk in the country. Courtney Strong and Amanda Grace will be sharing on the story of Esther and how all of us as women have been raised up for "such a time as this."

Saturday, Nov. 18 | 9:00 AM-4:00 PM | Brenham, TX  
Details and registration: [brenham.mdpc.org](http://brenham.mdpc.org)

**ECO National Gathering in Houston**

God calls us to renew, revitalize, and renovate our denomination's approach to its congregations, communities, and covenants. MDPC members are encouraged to attend. Early-bird rates through Oct. Speakers include Condoleeza Rice, Ed Stetzer, and Kyle Strobel.

Tuesday-Thursday, Jan. 23-25 | Hilton Americas  
Details and registration: [econationalgathering.org](http://econationalgathering.org)

**The Chancel Flowers are given**

in honor of Virginia Upchurch's 95th birthday, by Martha Blecher and Molly Tipton and families with love.

in loving memory of Brian Suthers, a wonderful husband, father, grandfather, and friend to many, on the first anniversary of his passing.

**Thank you to these families who donated flowers from their weddings this weekend:**

Chapel flowers are gifted in celebration of the marriage of Erica Pezeshki and Cameron Shoae.

Sanctuary flowers are gifted by Mr. and Mrs. Glenn, in celebration of their marriage.

**WEEKLY FINANCIAL UPDATE**

2017 Operating Budget	\$ 11,400,000
Expected Income to Date	\$ 6,646,693
Actual Income to Date (Oct. 15, 2017)	\$ 6,274,278
<b>Current Income Deficit</b>	<b>\$ 372,415</b>
Needed to Meet 2017 Budget	\$ 5,125,722
Hurricane Harvey Relief Fund	\$ 700,014



**Generous  
Hearts, Hands, Home.**

\*Please stand if able.

**8:30 AM BLENDED • 9:45 AM CONTEMPORARY**

CCLI # 182374

**WELCOME** Dave Steane (8:30), Worship Team (9:45)

**\*SONGS OF PRAISE**

**\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE OF PARDON** Trevor Harris (8:30), Sarah Stone (9:45)

**NEW MEMBERS** (9:45)

**GIFTS OF GRATITUDE**

**MESSAGE** **Generous Hearts** (2 Corinthians 8:1-14) Alf Halvorson

**RESPONSE OF THE PEOPLE**

**CONGREGATIONAL MEETING** Alf Halvorson, Tom Braschayko, Andrew Miller

Musicians in these services: Arthur Ceker, Gisele Duque, worship leaders • Uvaldo Callejas, bass • George Heathco, guitar • Daniel Martinez, keys • Asher Pudlo, drums

**11:15 AM TRADITIONAL**

**PRELUDE** *I'll Walk with God* Nicholas Brodzky (1905-1958)

**WELCOME AND CALL TO WORSHIP** Dave Steane

**\*HYMN OF PRAISE** *When Morning Gilds the Skies* #487; Vs. 1, 4 | LAUDES DOMINI

**\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION & ASSURANCE** Amy Delgado

**\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

**CHORAL ANTHEM** *A New Creation* Rene Clausen (b.1953)

**NEW MEMBERS** Dave Steane

**CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE**

**OFFERTORY** *A Covenant Prayer* Dan Forrest (b.1978)

**MESSAGE** **Generous Hearts** (2 Corinthians 8:1-14) Alf Halvorson

**HYMN OF RESPONSE** *A Mighty Fortress Is Our God* #260; Vs. 1, 4 | EIN' FESTE BURG

**CONGREGATIONAL MEETING** Alf Halvorson, Tom Braschayko, Andrew Miller

**POSTLUDE** *Improvisation on "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God"* arr. David N. Johnson (1922-1988)

Musicians in this service: Charles Hausmann, conducting • Ben Schaefer, prelude soloist • Kathryn White, organ

**CONGREGATIONAL MEETING TODAY**

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 2018 Nominating Committee.

**ELDER NOMINEES, CLASS OF 2020:**

- Jerry Blurton, Admin., Clerk Elect-elect
- Tom Caver, Admin., Personnel Elect-elect
- Bert Baker, Admin., Treasurer Elect-elect
- Julie Hempel, Admin., Food Service
- Bill May, Admin., Food Service (1-year term Class of 2018)
- Walt Denny, Admin., Generosity
- David Eyre, Admin., Legacy Giving
- Oliver Aldrich, Caring, Memorial Service Receptions
- Keith McNay, Caring, Memorial Service Ushers
- Courtney Cadwell, Children's, Preschool
- Tricia Koehler, Children's, Elementary
- Michael McCormack, Connections Team
- Susan Starling, Connections, New Members
- Kyle Wittenbraker, Equipping, Adult Studies
- Mark Dobbins, Outreach, Local (HSN)
- Carrie Goolsby, Outreach, Local (DE)
- Drew Limbacher, Outreach, Local (CFH)
- David Bradley, Relationships, Men's

- Andrew Miller, Relationships Team
- Harry Tallichet, Worship & Music
- Miah Collins, Young Adults
- Elizabeth Snelling, Youth Outreach
- TRUSTEE NOMINEES, 2018:**
- Bert Baker, Treasurer Elect-elect
- Jerry Blurton, Clerk Elect-elect
- David Baay, Personnel Elder

**NOMINEES, 2018 NOMINATING COMMITTEE:**

- Cheryl Moore, Clerk-elect, Moderator
- Martha Moore, Immediate Past Clerk
- Teri Adair, At-Large
- David Copeland, At-Large
- Dick Ebling, At-Large
- Clint Harrington, At-Large
- Carol Pena, At-Large
- Kathy Redden, At-Large
- Jerry Blurton, Clerk Elect-elect, Ex Officio
- Dave Steane, Executive Pastor, Ex Officio

# MDPC NEW MEMBERS

Today we are so happy to introduce these 19 new members of the MDPC family! Learn a little more about each in the brief bios below, and join us in warmly welcoming them to MDPC.



**Owen and Carolyn Anglum** have two adult children and six grandchildren. Owen is retired from Armco, Inc. and is currently a realtor for J. Carter Breed Properties. He is a competitive bridge player and loves the beach. Carolyn is retired and enjoys playing bridge, walking, and volunteering.



**Joe and Kim Dang** are the parents of Matthew (9) and Elizabeth (6). Joe is a physician and works at Memorial Hermann Southwest Hospital. Kim works at Kinder Morgan in finance.



**Bob and Rebecca Davis** have one child, Jonathan (8). Bob works as an agent for Miclette & Britt Insurance Agency. He also is a BSF children's leader and is an advisory member of Generation One. Rebecca is a stay-at-home mom and loves spending time with family and friends. She volunteers at Jonathan's school where he is a second-grader who loves playing all sports throughout the year.



**Hailey Granstaff** is a third-grade teacher in Alief ISD. She likes to read, spend time outdoors, and be with family and friends. Hailey also enjoys baking, CrossFit, and traveling. She loves to help people in any way she can.



**Bill and Pam Krocak** have three adult children and five grandchildren. Bill is Director of Human Resources for Register Tapes Unlimited, and enjoys singing in the choir, working out, and traveling. He is a U.S. Army Vietnam Veteran. Pam is the daughter of an Army Chaplain Presbyterian minister. She is a retired preschool music teacher and she loves music and singing in the choir. Her hobbies include cooking, reading, Zumba, and aqua aerobics. They both love spending time with their grandchildren.



**John and Phyllis McColly** between them have five adult children and 10 grandchildren. They both are retired. John is an amateur radio operator, licensed for 66 years. He enjoys traveling, RV-ing, stamp collecting, reading, and bridge. Phyllis loves reading, cooking, playing bridge, traveling, and playing the piano.



**Ryan and Erin McLearn** have one child, Reeve (4 months). Ryan and Erin both are attorneys. Ryan enjoys basketball and the outdoors. Erin enjoys reading and baking, and loves spending time with Ryan and Reeve and their two dachshunds, Hendrix and Layla, who are named for Jimi Hendrix and Eric Clapton's song – so she clearly also likes classic rock.



**Bryce and Meredith Smith** have one child, Tomlin (9 months). Bryce is Chef and Food Director at St. Francis Episcopal Day School and Meredith works in human resources for Atlantica Management.

We also are pleased to welcome **Domitila Aldana, Emily Dionicio, Israela Francisco, and Luis Manuel Olalde** into the MDPC family! Details and photographs were unavailable at the time of printing.

## New Member Service Day at EAST SPRING BRANCH FOOD PANTRY

New Member Classes end with a Saturday spent serving alongside one of MDPC's local partners in ministry.

East Spring Branch Food Pantry is a wonderful, long-time partner of ours, and the distribution point for the Thanksgiving Meal-in-a-Bag drive we're having in early November. See the cover of this bulletin for details on how to help!



## IS IT TIME FOR YOU TO JOIN MDPC?

### 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. No commitment required! Learn what it means to be part of our faith community.

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

### NEXT NEW MEMBER CLASS SERIES

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**

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

# Meet the Rev. Beth L. Case



## Biography

My toy closet was my first prayer room. At four years of age, I knelt there and asked Jesus to come into my life. Since then, I have grown in my knowledge of Christian faith and practice and in my relationship with Christ Jesus. During my high school years, I felt God nudging me toward ministry. Upon graduation, I attended Moody Bible Institute where I earned a Bachelor of Arts in Youth Ministry. During those years, God continued to imprint upon me a greater desire to know God's Word, love God's people, and extend God's grace. I was compelled by Paul's words in Romans 12:11-12: "Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord. Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer."

## Experience

After a brief stint in youth ministry, I spent a few years coaching college women's basketball. I earned a Master of Science in Kinesiology from the University of Illinois-Chicago, and my life revolved around sports. But as much as I liked to win, I cared more about the holistic lives of our players than about the points on the scoreboard. This God-given passion for people led me back to full-time ministry in the local church.

## Education

My seminary years were spent at Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary where I earned both an M.Div. and a Th.M. These were formative years, not only for my theological education, but for the refreshment found in sabbath rest and spiritual friendships. I recently completed a Spiritual Direction certification.

I have served in children's ministry, student ministry, and music ministry, as well as in contexts of discipleship, teaching, and compassionate care. Most recently, I have served as the Pastor for Congregational Life & Care at First Presbyterian Church-Bethlehem.

## Personal Information

Yes, I still enjoy watching a good basketball game! And I love to explore the outdoors by cycling, jogging, or kayaking. Other pastimes include growing vegetables, viewing art, and savoring chocolate.

## Statement of Faith

I stand under the authority of Scripture and am committed to Jesus Christ as my Savior and Lord. I ascribe to the teaching of the Reformed faith and the historical creeds of the Church.

Jesus is the only Son of God, fully human and fully divine. He is Emmanuel, God with us, sent by God to walk this earth, to die our death, to forgive our sin, to rise again. He promises His presence, He shares our grief; He purchased our redemption, and secured our hope. Upon Jesus' ascension, He sent the Holy Spirit to indwell believers. The Holy Spirit is God's presence in us and among us, given to comfort, convict, guide, and gift. By the Holy Spirit, God's presence and shepherding care is available now and throughout eternity.

My passion is for every person to encounter the love of Jesus. I love for the grace and truth of Jesus to be known, and to be shared through methods which engage soul, body, and mind. I believe that personal and corporate prayer, Scripture study, and Christ-centered service allow for the Holy Spirit to shape our lives according to God's will. These core spiritual disciplines also provide a healthy foundation from which teams can implement innovative strategies for spiritual nurture and caring ministry.

One of my favorite parts of ministry is collaborating with other believers. It is an honor to see the Holy Spirit gift God's people, and serve alongside other believers who are faithfully multiplying ministry. Together, we are the body of Christ, working for the growth of God's Kingdom. We serve as God's hands and feet, becoming for each other God-with-skin on.

# MDPC Congregational Meeting

Sunday, October 22, 2017

## Motion 1

### From the Associate Pastor Nominating Committee

To call the Rev. Beth Case as Associate Pastor for Caring Ministries at Memorial Drive Presbyterian Church, effective December 15, 2017

YES                       NO

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## Motion 2

### From the Associate Pastor Nominating Committee

To approve the following terms of call for Rev. Case:

**Annual Salary** (Includes housing allowance and Social Security supplement)                      \$90,750

**Annual Benefits**

Medical Insurance                      \$8,875

403(b)(9) Contribution (11% of salary)                      \$9,983

Professional Development Allowance (Cumulative for 3 years)                      \$1,450

Books, Professional Dues                      \$500

4 weeks of Vacation

2 weeks of Professional Development Leave (Cumulative for 3 years)

YES                       NO

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## Motion 3

### From the Associate Pastor Nominating Committee

To dismiss with gratitude the Associate Pastor Nominating Committee

YES                       NO

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Please pass your folded and completed ballot to the right, where ushers will pick them up at the end of the aisle.

# Generosity Session I

## The Sole Reason for Giving (excerpted from the 2018 Generosity Devotional)

*Read Luke 19:1-10*

If money is an index into the character of a human being, then Zaccheus' life was in a shambles. Zaccheus, a chief tax collector, was very rich from exploiting the poor. To put it simply, the responsibility of a tax collector was to exact a certain amount of taxes from a region and pay them to the Roman government. Zaccheus, a Jew, was seen as a traitor by his people for "overcharging" his fellow Jews, paying money to the Roman government, and then keeping a large profit for himself. Zaccheus paid a high price to the Roman government for the job of chief tax collector. He was the highest of many bidders. But he also paid a high personal price. Imagine the resentment that the people had toward Zaccheus. Imagine his loneliness. He must have wondered, in the secret chambers of his heart, if it was worth it to have all of his wealth and no one with whom to share it. In the pain of his loneliness, Zaccheus heard about Jesus of Nazareth, a teacher, preacher, and healer who some claimed to be the promised messiah. Zaccheus wanted to see Jesus, but couldn't get a glimpse of Him because he was short of stature. His dilemma was solved when he spied a sycamore tree with low, leafy branches - an ideal tree to climb and an easy place to hide.

When the people saw Zaccheus in the tree, they were convinced that Jesus would have harsh words with him. They must have "licked their chops" when they saw Jesus approaching Zaccheus and speaking to him. Can't you imagine what they were saying? "He's gonna get it now! Zaccheus is gonna get what's coming to him. Jesus will show him." Instead of condemnation, however, Jesus offered Zaccheus an opportunity for intimate table fellowship with Him. In the Middle Eastern culture, dining with someone was a display of friendship and acceptance.

Notice that the story does not mention that Jesus criticized Zaccheus for his exploitation. Jesus does not give him a "bill" for what he owes. Instead, Jesus dealt with him in gracious love. Zaccheus had never been loved unconditionally before. When Zaccheus felt valued and taken seriously as a human being, he began to change! He was overwhelmed by a moment of grace. He voluntarily responded to God's grace by getting his life back in order. He began to live as a person of integrity. He decided to pay back those he had exploited and he opened his eyes, heart, and wallet to the poor. Zaccheus' spending and use of money was never the same again.

Whenever someone experiences grace and properly understands what it means to be loved, cherished, and forgiven by God, he or she becomes a new creation. One's spending of time and dollars begins to reflect the value system of Jesus Christ. *One's entire life becomes a response to grace.* We discover that the only reason for giving is gratitude.

### Questions for Reflection and Discussion:

1. What do you think Zaccheus and Jesus talked about during dinner? Who do you think did most of the talking? Why?
2. Why do you think Zaccheus changed so dramatically after the meal with Jesus?
3. What kind of a tax collector do you think Zaccheus would become in the future? What would he do differently?
4. When in your life did you experience a moment of grace? Give an example or an illustration of God's grace in your own life experience.
5. List several benefits of being a Christian. In other words, what are some of the positive benefits that one experiences as a Christian? List four or five (ex. forgiveness of sins; support from the Christian community; eternal life; power for daily living; the guidance of the Holy Spirit in daily decision making; the tradition and history of the Christian church; the wisdom of the Bible; the teaching of Christians down through the ages as recorded in books, articles, and personal experience; etc.)
6. What are the reasons that many people give money and time to a church?
7. According to the Bible, what is the only true reason for giving?

