

Coming Up at MDPC

**HUNGER INITIATIVE: Baby Formula Drive**  
MDPC's Hunger Initiative to fight food insecurity will collect baby formula to benefit LIFE Houston. Powder formulas (brand name or generic) are preferred, thought cans of liquid will be gratefully accepted. Details on requested varieties are at the link below.  
**Formula Collection Day: Sunday, Dec. 3**  
*More info: [hunger.mdpc.org](http://hunger.mdpc.org)*

**Pastor Rick Myers Is Retiring**  
We'll celebrate our beloved, 12-year Caring Ministries Pastor with a look back at his ministry at MDPC while enjoying *A Few of Rick's Favorite Things*. Rick's program begins at 12:45; All-Church Lunch will be served at its usual time of 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM.  
**Sunday, Dec. 3 | 12:45-1:30 PM | Fellowship Hall**  
*For details, menu, and to RSVP: [myers.mdpc.org](mailto:myers.mdpc.org)*

**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.  
*Online registration is open at [pip.mdpc.org](http://pip.mdpc.org).*

**Howard Edington's Book**  
A revised and expanded treatment of *The Forgotten Man of Christmas* has just been released. Much of what is now in the book is gleaned from the Christmas season preaching Howard did at MDPC.  
*[edingtonbook.mdpc.org](http://edingtonbook.mdpc.org)*

**Register Now for Spring REACH Classes**  
Spring offerings include art, dance, music, and sports classes for both children and adults.  
*For a complete list of classes and to register, call the REACH office at 713-490-9564 or visit [reach.mdpc.org](http://reach.mdpc.org).*

**Married Life Prep**  
Taught at MDPC by Brett and Kellie Hurst of Home Encouragement, you will learn how to build your marriage upon a firm foundation.  
**Sundays, January 7-28 | 10:00 AM-12:00 PM**  
*Details and registration: [mlp.mdpc.org](http://mlp.mdpc.org)*

**Pray With Us: MDPC Ministry Partners**  
This week, please pray for these partners MDPC assists with your support:

**Spring Branch Family Development Center** enhances the wellbeing of local families through a multi-agency collaboration that provides health, educational, recreational, and social services.  
*[sbfdc.org](http://sbfdc.org)*

**Spring Spirit Baseball** focuses on the personal development of at-risk youth through baseball, softball, and educational programs, and enriches the lives of youth through mentoring relationships.  
*[springspiritbaseball.org](http://springspiritbaseball.org)*

**Lulwanda Children's Home** in Mbale, Uganda addresses the urgent needs of abandoned children and those left orphaned by Africa's AIDS epidemic. The home provides 120 children with a loving home and Christian education. Many neighborhood children join the orphans for school.  
*[ugandaorphans.org](http://ugandaorphans.org)*

**Your Covenant with God**  
Your 2018 pledge conveniently can be made online. Visit the link below where you'll find a form to give, and spiritual resources to help with your decision.  
*[generosity.mdpc.org](http://generosity.mdpc.org)*

**Business Advisers Needed**  
MDPC ministry partner Newspring focuses on economic development in Spring Branch. Its annual business plan competition in conjunction with HCC gives contestants rigorous training in business planning, assisted by two advisers during the 11-week competition.  
*If you are interested in applying your business skills as part of your Christian witness, contact Robert Westheimer at [rwestheimer1@comcast.net](mailto:rwestheimer1@comcast.net).*

**Theology On Tap**  
MDPC Young Adults: Round up pals for a relaxed, take-all-comers theological conversation over bites and beers. Contact Sarah for location details.  
**Monday, Nov. 27 | 6:30-8:00 PM | Location TBD**  
*Contact Sarah Stone: [sstone@mdpc.org](mailto:sstone@mdpc.org), 832-605-8129*

**Concert Series: Choral Christmas Concert**  
How often do you get to sing Christmas carols with a full orchestra? Now is your chance! In addition to congregational carols, the MDPC Sanctuary choir and a professional orchestra will perform *Messa di Gloria* by Giacomo Puccini, composer of beloved operas *La Boheme* and *La Traviata*, and *The Many Moods of Christmas* by Robert Shaw and Robert Russell Bennett.  
**Sunday, Dec. 17 | 6:00 PM | Free admission**  
*[concerts.mdpc.org](http://concerts.mdpc.org)*

**Confirmation 2018**  
Confirmation is our yearly program for all students who are currently in the 8th grade or above. It'll be a time of focusing on what it means to follow Jesus and be part of His Church.  
**Kick-off: Sunday Evening, January 7**  
**Class Meetings: Sundays, January 14-March 4**  
**11:00 AM-12:15 PM | \$125 if you register by Dec. 3**  
*Fee covers retreat expenses: [confirmation.mdpc.org](http://confirmation.mdpc.org)*  
*Contact Laura with questions: [lmiller@mdpc.org](mailto:lmiller@mdpc.org)*

**The Red Rose is in honor of**  
Noel Terry Adams IV, born October 17, 2017, to Noel and Danielle Adams. Noel IV is the grandson of Terry and Anne Adams, and the great-grandson of Noel and Donalee Adams and of Bill and Jan Fawley.

**The White Rose is in memory of**  
Audrey Slye, who passed away October 28, 2017.  
Janice Burg, who passed away November 12, 2017.

WEEKLY FINANCIAL UPDATE	
2017 Operating Budget	\$ 11,400,000
Expected Income to Date	\$ 7,293,491
Actual Income to Date (11/12/17)	\$ 7,121,810
Current Income Deficit	\$ 171,681
Needed to Meet 2017 Budget	\$ 4,278,190
Hurricane Harvey Relief Fund	\$ 743,893

Sunday, November 19, 2017



**SUPPLY****DEMAND**

# THE SUPPLY AND DEMAND OF TRUE LOVE

**Genesis 29:16-30**  
Pastor Alf Halvorson preaching

**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

Clay Brown

SONG OF RESPONSE

BAPTISMS

Alf Halvorson

Katherine Grace Crawley, daughter of Robert and Elizabeth Crawley  
Easton Magee Davis, son of Ted and Emily Davis  
Gabriel W. Miller, son of Andrew and Laura Miller  
Tomlin Robert Smith, son of Bryce and Meredith Smith

GIFTS OF GRATITUDE

Dave Steane

MESSAGE

The Supply and Demand of True Love

Alf Halvorson

RESPONSE OF THE PEOPLE

Musicians in these services: Meliza Gómez and Michael Middleton, worship leaders • Uvaldo Callejas, bass • George Heathco, guitar • Daniel Martinez, keys • Asher Pudlo, drums

11:15 AM TRADITIONAL

PRELUDE

Master Tallis' Testament

Herbert Howells (1892-1983)

WELCOME AND CALL TO WORSHIP

Dave Steane

\*HYMN OF PRAISE

All Creatures of Our God and King

#455; Vs. 1, 5 | LASST UNS ERFREUEN

\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE

Clay Brown

\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH from 1 Corinthians 15:1-6 & Colossians 1:15-20

ANTHEM

Alleluia

Ralph Manuel (b.1951)

BAPTISM

Alf Halvorson

Nathan Randall Howard, son of Ronald and Melissa Howard

OFFERTORY

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

arr. Mack Wilberg (b. 1955)

MESSAGE

The Supply and Demand of True Love

Alf Halvorson

\*HYMN OF RESPONSE

Be Thou My Vision

#339; Vs. 1, 2 | SLANE

POSTLUDE

Be Thou My Vision

arr. David H. Hegarty (b. 1945)

Musicians in this service: Paulo Gomes, guest conductor • Kathryn White, organ

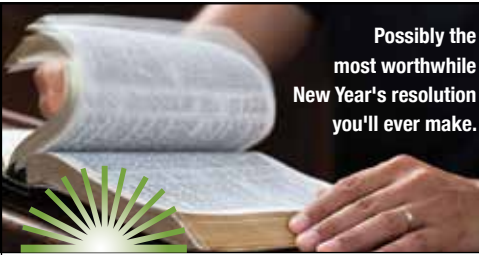
\*Please stand if able.

CCLI # 182374



# Alpha is coming.

January 23, 2018  
[alpha.mdpc.org](http://alpha.mdpc.org)



Possibly the most worthwhile New Year's resolution you'll ever make.

# B90

READ THE BIBLE

**The Challenge**

To read every word of the Bible, from Genesis to Revelation, in 90 days.

**Interest Meeting:** Sunday, Dec. 17 | 11:15 AM  
**Begin Reading:** Monday, Jan. 1, 2018  
[b90.mdpc.org](http://b90.mdpc.org)





**Mission Market Opens Soon!**  
**Sundays between Services,**  
**November 26-December 17**

Purchasing Mission Market Christmas cards to give to your friends and family can change lives! **100% of the money received** is sent to the MDPC ministry partner(s) of your choice, helping **support cross-cultural mission** across the globe, **relieve food-insecurity** for preschoolers in Houston, bring **smiles to kids living with disabilities**, **minister to children orphaned by AIDS**, and so much more...

**Mission Market**  
 Christmas Cards



We'll have **Games**, a **Cake Walk**, **Advent Wreath** making, a **Hot Chocolate Bar**, and much more!  
**Dinner\*** will be available.

**Sunday, December 3**  
**4:15-7:00 PM**

Come to the Chapel for **Christmas caroling** at 4:15, followed by festival fun starting at 5:00.

**The entire family is welcome!**  
 \*Details: [angels.mdpc.org](http://angels.mdpc.org)

**KIDS**  
 Making Disciples Helping Them Grow!

Music Ministries & REACH Recreation Ministry present

**merry & bright**


**MDPC's Annual Christmas Season Music and Art Show**  
 Wednesday, December 6  
 Begins at 6:30 PM | Free Event  
[merry.mdpc.org](http://merry.mdpc.org)



**You're Invited!**

MDPC Women invite you to a fun kick-off of the Christmas season! Grab your friends and come enjoy the festivities, including wassail, treats, and a few carols from our Yellow School children. All women are welcome!

**Thursday, December 7 • 9:30-11:00 AM • Parlor**  
 Free childcare available by reservation: [childcare@mdpc.org](mailto:childcare@mdpc.org)



**Christmas for Kids**

Help Small Steps Nurturing Center provide Christmas gifts for siblings of children in its programs. Simply sign up to provide three gifts per child for a total cost of around \$100. Shop according to your budget!

Pick up forms and gift bags on **Sundays in November**.  
 Bring wrapped gifts to MDPC by **Wednesday, December 6**.



**BLESS FRIDAY**  
 BLACK FRIDAY IS ABOUT SHOPPING  
 BLESS FRIDAY IS ABOUT SERVING

**Friday, November 24, 2017**

The action of serving instead of shopping is a great Christ-focused way for you and your friends and family to begin the Advent season with a thankful and giving heart. MDPC has been turning Black Friday into BLESS Friday since 2010!

#### **The Beacon** (Serve on Friday, Nov. 24)

Prepare and serve lunch, help with intake, or wash/dry/fold laundry at this downtown day center and services ministry for Houston's homeless.

**Sign-up required:** [blessfriday.mdpc.org](http://blessfriday.mdpc.org)

**Contact Jan Roe:** [jroe@mdpc.org](mailto:jroe@mdpc.org)



#### **Cornerstone Community** (Serve Friday, Nov. 24)

Prep veggies, make sack lunches, serve/tidy after lunch, and organize the pantry for the women and their children living in this new and unique Star of Hope community.

**Registration required:** [blessfriday.mdpc.org](http://blessfriday.mdpc.org)

**Contact Trevor Harris:** [tharris@mdpc.org](mailto:tharris@mdpc.org)



#### **Kids' Meals** (At-home project)

Make emergency-meal bags for the 2,500 preschool-age children that Kids' Meals feeds daily. Bring to Sanctuary Lobby on Sunday, November 26.

**Easy how-to instructions:** [blessfriday.mdpc.org](http://blessfriday.mdpc.org)  
**Contact Julie Hempel:** [hempeljulie@gmail.com](mailto:hempeljulie@gmail.com)

#### **Open Door Mission** (Serve Friday, Nov. 24)

Prepare and serve lunch for 100 men living at this faith-based recovery and rehab mission. Afterward, visit with the residents or play board games.

**Registration required:** [blessfriday.mdpc.org](http://blessfriday.mdpc.org)

**Contact Sharon Fox:** [ssfox@icloud.com](mailto:ssfox@icloud.com)



#### **MDPC Food Pantry** (At-home project)

Bag beans and rice for 250 families the MDPC Fuente Food Pantry serves every Saturday. The Pantry hands out food bags and over 700 pounds of beans and rice every weekend! The bags you make will help fill the pantry with one of its most needed staples. Bring filled baggies to the Sanctuary Lobby on Sunday, November 26.

**Simple how-to instructions:** [blessfriday.mdpc.org](http://blessfriday.mdpc.org)

**Contact Debbi Nager:** [debnager7@gmail.com](mailto:debnager7@gmail.com)



[blessfriday.mdpc.org](http://blessfriday.mdpc.org)



## THE SUPPLY AND DEMAND OF TRUE LOVE

Genesis 29:16-30

Pastor Alf Halvorson preaching

**Y**ou probably know the story of Jacob. He steals his older brother Esau's birthright by deceiving his blind father, Isaac. As a result, Jacob has to flee for his life. First, he has an amazing dream at Bethel (Genesis 28:10-22) where God says He will give Jacob and his offspring this land. Second, Jacob wanders to Haran where his mother Rebekah's brother, Laban, lives. What do you do after you have run from your evil deeds, seemingly found safety, and have in the back of your mind the gracious idea that God has promised to be with you and eventually bless you? You fall in love. But most love stories are neither straightforward nor easily won.

1. Read Genesis 29:16-20. What do we really know about Rachel, Leah, and Laban? Do you think verse 20 is literally seven years, or the symbolic "the fullness of time" that the number seven sometimes suggests?
2. Read 21-25. Does everything proceed as Jacob planned? What actually happens? What does it mean that the deceiver, Jacob, is deceived himself? Why is this important for the story and for our life stories? When has something you did in one context come back to "bite you" in another? Does that usually produce learning, or bitterness?
3. Read 26-30. I talked in my sermon about what happens after these verses regarding Rachel and Leah. From Craig Barnes' insight, do you agree that we always marry both Rachel and Leah—or Jacob and Leon?
4. What did I suggest are the two main options in response to discovering this fact about life, love, and relationships? Have you ever followed the arc of infatuation / honeymoon / disappointment / jumping-ship with a job, a church, a friendship, or love? What did I suggest it is like to complete the circle?
5. How does God model that kind of love in His relationship with us? Are we deserving of it? What does that kind of commitment and perseverance produce in you/me/us?
6. Can any other human being really play God for any other human being? I mentioned that Shari and I, at our 15th wedding anniversary, joked that we were doing well because we had "low expectations." I meant by that statement that neither of us thought the other person could meet all of our needs, because our ultimate hope was in God through Christ. Is that healthy or deluded thinking? Explain...
7. How is this agape kind of love different from the objectifying, false-intimacy lust I talked about last week?
8. Where might God be challenging you (and maybe us as a church) to this sacrificial and circle-producing love?

