

**Ash Wednesday: Two Service Times**

Pastor Alf begins his new sermon series, *7 Deadly Sins and Saving Virtues*. Both services will have communion and imposition of ashes.

**This Wednesday, Feb. 14 | Noon or 6:30 PM**  
[easter.mdpc.org](http://easter.mdpc.org)

**Prime Timers: The Singin' Cowboy**

Don your Western duds, and come get in the rodeo spirit! Pat Gavin serves as the resident cowboy singer at the George Ranch. Drop-ins welcome for the program; you must make a reservation for lunch (due Feb. 14).

**Tuesday, Feb. 20 | Parlor**

**Free Program 11:00 AM, Lunch (\$10) at Noon**  
 Call Evelyn Cook with questions: 713-504-2919

**Blood Drive**

Since the storm, area blood blanks are low. Please consider donating! Pre-registering at [giveblood.org](http://giveblood.org) helps the Blood Center schedule technicians, but walk-ins on the day of the drive are welcome.

**Sunday, Feb. 18 | 8:00 AM-2:00 PM | Fellowship Hall**

**Call for Committee Members**

We need just a few more volunteers for Local Outreach Subcommittees. Local Outreach Ministry makes 120 site visits a year, sending a team of two to visit, learn more about, and pray with one of our local ministry partners. From these visits, recommendations are made to Session for sending support. A unique blessing is seeing God at work when you visit these hard-working, compassionate folks caring for others daily. *If God is calling you to local outreach, contact Jan Roe to learn more: [jroe@mdpc.org](mailto:jroe@mdpc.org)*

**2018 Partner Prayer Booklets Available!**

Our annual prayer guide of MDPC Outreach Partners is available around campus. Pick up a copy to learn more about our amazing partners and how you can pray for them. Our partners repeatedly tell us how much these prayers mean to them.

*To learn about volunteer opportunities with our partner organizations, contact Jan Roe at [jroe@mdpc.org](mailto:jroe@mdpc.org).*

**Please Pray for MDPC Ministry Partners**

This week, we're lifting in prayer these MDPC partners:

**The Beacon** provides hot meals, showers, laundry service, and case management to over 300 clients each day. These essential services meet both the most basic and critical needs of Houston under-served and homeless clients.

[beaconhomeless.org](http://beaconhomeless.org)

**Bo's Place** provides grief support to children and their families who have experienced the death of a parent or sibling. It offers community education and training to professionals and volunteers who work with children and families in grief. Bo's Place has offsite support groups in Gulfton, East End, and Katy.

[bosplace.org](http://bosplace.org)

**MDPC Field Partners Steve and Barbara Johnson** serve in Budapest, Hungary, through Youth With a Mission. The Johnsons operate a coffeehouse that serves as an evangelism center, reaching out to the Budapest community with music and conversation that sparks spiritual discussion.

[ywambudapest.hu](http://ywambudapest.hu)

**Five Love Languages Begins Today**

Looking for a marriage tune-up? Want to figure out now what will bring a lifetime of love? Ready to be in a small group together? Young marrieds (20s/30s), join us for a new class on the popular Gary Chapman book.

**Sundays, Feb. 11-March 25 | 11:00 AM | MC 116**

*Details: [fivelove.mdpc.org](http://fivelove.mdpc.org)*

**Bible Study Discussion Visitor Day**

Looking for a small group? BSD has it all! Bible study, small group discussion, and lecture. Join us at today's Visitor Day to learn more.

**Meets Sundays, 9:45 AM or 11:15 AM**

*Questions to Christy Dull: [christydull@hotmail.com](mailto:christydull@hotmail.com)*

**Ambassadors for a Better World**

Tihomir Kukolja of Renewing Our Minds ministry and a group of MDPC members invite you to hear stories from their recent trip to Croatia. Special guest, Leo van Doesburg, Director of European Affairs for the European Christian Political Movement will speak on "Advocating Christian Values in a Secular Society: Lessons from Europe." Join us, and invite your friends!  
**Monday, Feb. 12 | 6:30 PM | Parlor**

**Youth Baseball, Softball, and Volleyball**

Boys and girls in pre-K through 6th grade are encouraged to sign up for baseball or softball. Volleyball is for 4th-8th grade girls who are not in club volleyball.

**All practices begin the week of March 19.**

**Games: Saturdays, March 24-May 19**

**\$120, includes jersey, pictures, and medal or trophy**

*Register by February 18: [sports.mdpc.org](http://sports.mdpc.org)*

**Save the Date! The Spoken Word 2018**

Experience God's Word in a special way and prepare your heart for the miracle of Easter! Come to read or to listen, strengthen your faith, and enjoy the fellowship experience of this Holy Week tradition at MDPC.

**Pastor Alf kicks off reading at 6:00 AM, March 26; we conclude on Maundy Thursday by 4:00 PM.**

*Registration to read for 15-minute increments opens on Monday, February 26: [spokenword.mdpc.org](http://spokenword.mdpc.org)*

**The Red Rose is in honor of**

Mary Caroline Cleveland, born January 23, 2018, to Tim and Kristina Cleveland. Mary is the granddaughter of Bitsy and Tom Cleveland.

**WEEKLY FINANCIAL UPDATE**

MDPC's 2018 Operating Budget is pending approval. Today's Financial Update will be shared on the screens.



Sunday, February 11, 2018

**Deadly Sins and Saving Virtues**

*The Journey of Sanctification*  
 Hebrews 12:1-3 • Alf Halvorson preaching

**8:30 AM BLENDED**

WELCOME AND CALL TO WORSHIP

Dave Steane

\*SONGS OF PRAISE

Beth Case

\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE

SONG OF RESPONSE

Dave Steane

GIFTS OF GRATITUDE

MESSAGE **The Journey of Sanctification: Deadly Sins and Saving Virtues**

Alf Halvorson

RESPONSE OF THE PEOPLE

**9:45 AM CONTEMPORARY**

WORSHIP INVITATION

Alf Halvorson

BAPTISMS

Nathaniel Ryan DeMaio, son of Nicholas Ryan and Melinda Kay DeMaio  
 Miriam Grace DeMaio, daughter of Nicholas Ryan and Melinda Kay DeMaio  
 Carter Bentley Dickerson, son of Nicholas Paul and Rachel Elena Dickerson  
 Oliver Wood Luberger, son of Charles Frederick and Caitlyn Taliaferro Luberger  
 Carlise Corinne Taliaferro, daughter of Elliott and Julia Taliaferro

\*WORSHIP SET

\*MOMENT OF CONFESSION

Laura Miller

MESSAGE **The Journey of Sanctification: Deadly Sins and Saving Virtues**

Alf Halvorson

GIFTS OF GRATITUDE

Musicians in these services: Meliza Gómez and Michael Middleton, worship leaders • Daniel Amaya, bass • Christy Colgin, cello • Joe Gavito, guitar • Asher Pudlo, drums

**11:15 AM TRADITIONAL**

PRELUDE

*When Thou Art Near*

J. S. Bach (1685-1750)

WELCOME AND CALL TO WORSHIP

Dave Steane

CHORAL INTROIT

*Great Is Thy Faithfulness*

Vaclav Nelhybel

\*HYMN OF PRAISE

*Jesus Shall Reign Where'er the Sun*

#423; Vs. 1, 3, 5 | DUKE STREET

\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE

Beth Case

\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH from The Apostles' Creed

\*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

*The Gloria Patri*

Hymn #579

ANTHEM

*The Call*

Z. Randall Stroope (b. 1953)

OFFERTORY

*Worthy to Be Praised*

Byron J. Smith (b. 1960)

MESSAGE

**The Journey of Sanctification: Deadly Sins and Saving Virtues**

Alf Halvorson

\*HYMN OF RESPONSE

*Take My Life*

#391; Vs. 1, 2, 6 | HENDON

POSTLUDE

*Jehovah, Let Me Now Adore Thee*

Sigfrid Karg-Elert (1877-1933)

Musicians in this service: Emily Borling, guest organist • Charles Hausmann, conductor • Julio Sanchez, percussion

\*Please stand if able.

CCLI # 182374



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# Mardi Gras

**All-Church Lunch**  
Mardi Gras Themed Menu

Shrimp étouffée, blackened catfish, jambalaya, maque choux, and more!

**Today in Fellowship Hall**  
Served 11:00 AM-1:00 PM  
\$10/adult • \$4/child

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

## MDPC CHURCH IN THE CITY

**Sunday, February 25**, join us for a morning of service at **Houston Food Bank** (HFB). **Instead of the usual worship services**, we'll board buses at 8:00 AM and travel to HFB to work side-by-side on projects that help feed Houston's hungry.

Ages 6+ may serve at HFB; younger kids and their families will stay at MDPC to work on important, age-appropriate outreach projects. Folks of any age who prefer to stay and serve at MDPC are invited to do so; look for the "Serve at MDPC" form when you register.

Though we won't spend the morning in pews, we'll still worship, hear the Word, and offer our gifts of gratitude.

Details, FAQ, and registration:  
[CITC.mdpc.org](http://CITC.mdpc.org)

\$10\*/person includes bus ride, lunch, & project supplies

Please register ASAP so we can prepare.

**All are welcome** and encouraged to come: MDPC members, visitors, guests, and friends!

\*If needed, MDPC will gladly waive the fee for you and/or your family. Just email Alicia at [aboykin@mdpc.org](mailto:aboykin@mdpc.org).



## Deadly Sins and Saving Virtues

Grow in Faith this Lenten Season

### Lenten Sermon Series

This week, on Ash Wednesday, Pastor Alf begins a new, original sermon series. Enjoy a multi-media experience all season as artists from the MDPC community contribute uniquely painted compositions depicting each topic.

**Ash Wednesday, February 14**

From *Pride to Humility*  
Noon in Amphitheater  
or 6:30 PM in Sanctuary

This Week!

The sermon series continues Sundays, February 18 through April 1.

**Note:** Feb. 25 is MDPC's Church in the City service day (see ad at left).

### Lenten Small Groups

Meet Weekly, February 18-March 25

As Pastor Alf preaches on the themes of deadly sins and saving virtues this Lenten season, groups will gather to further discuss how, in our journeys of faith, we will acknowledge, confess, and strive against the sins that pervade our hearts, and seek to develop virtues that counter these sins. There are groups to join, or consider starting your own! Also, the same curriculum will be offered in a large-group format at two different hours on Wednesdays during Lent, taught by Pastor Clay Brown.

For details and to sign up:  
[lenten.mdpc.org](http://lenten.mdpc.org)



### The Spoken Word

Monday, March 26, 6:00 AM through Thursday, March 29, 3:30 PM

This MDPC tradition is a cover-to-cover reading of the Bible during Holy Week. Come to read, or come to listen! Reader sign-up opens February 26 at [spokenword.mdpc.org](http://spokenword.mdpc.org).



## Gary Haugen

CEO and Founder of International Justice Mission

**February 22 • 7:00 PM**

Join us on February 22 to hear one of today's most passionate voices in the cause of anti-slavery. Before founding International Justice Mission in 1997, Gary was a human rights attorney for the U.S. Department of Justice. In 1994, he served as the Director of the United Nations' investigation in the aftermath of the Rwandan genocide.

Gary's anti-slavery work has been recognized by the U.S. State Department, and featured in *The New York Times*, *Forbes*, *U.S. News and World Report*, and *The New Yorker*. He is the author of several books, including *The Locust Effect*, which he discussed in a TED Talk entitled *The hidden reason for poverty that the world needs to address now*. His background will serve to inform the strategic use of a \$1.5 billion fund to battle modern-day slavery, an effort he discussed with other global influencers on a panel at last month's World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland.

Watch Gary's TED Talk for a great primer before the February 22nd event. Quick link to the talk at [haugen.mdpc.org](http://haugen.mdpc.org).

For details and to RSVP (free event):  
[justice.mdpc.org](http://justice.mdpc.org)



## Walking the Mourner's Path™

TRANSFORMING GRIEF  
INTO JOYFUL LIVING

This Christ-centered eight-week grief program is limited to ten participants, creating a safe place to share feelings with each other and with God. Two trained facilitators will guide the group.

Thursdays, Feb. 22-Apr. 19  
3:30-5:00 PM  
Chapel Bride's Room (116)

Register with Beverly Fluke (713-490-9542) or at [grief.mdpc.org](http://grief.mdpc.org)





## The Journey of Sanctification

Hebrews 12:1-3 • Alf Halvorson preaching

This Sunday serves as an overview for our Lenten Series, “Deadly Sins and Saving Virtues.” A Lenten Booklet has been prepared by Equipping Ministries (Dr. Clay Brown, Martha Moore, and Jeanmarie Tade), which will serve as your small group or individual guide during these next seven weeks. But today, I want to place the entire Lenten Series in context.

1. In your family of origin (and in your church growing up, if you had one), did you practice Lent? Was yours a “giving up” tradition? A “taking on” tradition? Something else? What is your strongest memory, good or bad, about this discipline?
2. In Hebrews chapter 11, there is a definition of faith in verse one (“*faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen*”), and a statement in verse six (“*without faith it is impossible to please God, for whoever would approach Him must believe that He exists and that He rewards those who seek Him*”). The rest of the chapter contains what many Bibles call “The Hall of Fame of Faith.” Example after example is given of what men and women did because they were followers of God. Now read Hebrews 12:1-3. What does it mean, do you think, to have these verses follow chapter 11? What does it mean to be “*surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses*”?
3. What are the two tasks that the author of Hebrews gives us in verse 1? Does the order matter? How, in your experience, are we to “*lay aside*” the sin that weighs us down?
4. Verses 2 and 3 ask us to look to Jesus, as we lay aside the sin that hinders and run the race with perseverance. Why, are we told, to look to Jesus? What does Jesus do for us? Hint, He is our pioneer and perfecter...
5. I talked in my sermon about the difference between justification and sanctification. The three-week Romans Series talked almost exclusively about justification. Our Lenten Series will talk more about sanctification. How does Jesus, as the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, bridge the two?
6. Focus on verse 3. As I listed the Seven Deadly Sins (and gave examples from *Gilligan's Island* and *SpongeBob*), which would you say you wrestle with most right now in your life? Pride? Envy? Sloth? Anger? Greed? Lust? Gluttony? What goal or chance “*to run a race*,” what “*joy set before you*” might inspire you to “*lay aside*” this weight/sin?
7. John Maxwell has written, “You will never change your life until you change something you do daily. The secret is found in your daily routine.” What might change for you?

