

Women's Ministry Fair Today

Did you know we have a women's ministry here at MDPC? MDPC Women exists to help connect you with friends and with Jesus. Stop by for a taste of green smoothie and banana bread and to see all that we have planned for you this year. We would love to help you find your landing place at MDPC!

Between services | Chapel Hallway or Breezeway

Elder Nominations End Tomorrow

Elder Nominations for the class of 2021 are almost closed. Your involvement in this process is essential!

Visit nominations.mdpc.org, or pick up a paper form and return it to the Front Office, Attn: Gena Kookan.

MOPS Starts This Week!

MOPs (Mothers of Preschoolers) supports and equips moms through connection, solid content, and fun. If you are longing for a place to belong or a place to connect, we have a seat for you. Childcare provided.

Every other Thurs. starting Aug. 30 | 9:30-11:15 AM

Learn more and register: mops.mdpc.org

Are you a working mom? We've got a MOPS for you, too! See details at workingmops.mdpc.org.

Romp Through the Old Testament

A Bible study led by Pastor Clay Brown, Pastor Beth Case, and Pastor Rachel Poysky.

Tuesdays, starting Sept 11 | 9:00-10:00 AM | MC 122

romp.mdpc.org

The Venturers at MDPC: Dinner & Program

This month's speaker is Pastor Alf, who will share his travelogue of last June's trip to Greece and Turkey with members of MDPC, A Walk in the Footsteps of Paul.

Monday, Sept 10 | 6:00 PM | Westchase Hilton

Event details and registration: venturers.mdpc.org

Blood Drive

We never know when or where disaster will strike, which makes regular blood drives so important. Not every story makes national headlines, but for the parents of a hurting child, patients undergoing heart surgery, preemies, sickle cell sufferers, and so many more, their time of crisis and need is just as urgent.

Sunday, Sept 9 | 8:00 AM-2:00 PM | Fellowship Hall

Sign up anytime at giveblood.org.

The White Rose is in memory of these MDPC members:

- L.P. Jones, who passed away August 8, 2018.

This week, please pray for these**MDPC Ministry Partners:**

MDPC Mobile Unit serves six designated locations in the community, providing gently used clothing and household goods and some new products at minimal cost to families in need.

Contact Valerie Rivera for information: vriviera@mdpc.org

Mo-Ranch Camp & Conference Center hosts individuals, groups, and churches primarily from the Synod of the Sun for both church retreats and Mo-sponsored programs. The ministry is a safe place for renewal, reflection, and discernment, leading people to have a deeper faith and be a stronger disciple of Jesus Christ.

moranch.org

MDPC Field Partners Steve and Natalie Hall minister in Alaska and the Northern Territory. Working through SEND North, the Hall family focuses on the unreached people of the 60-70 parallel, who deal with elevated depression, alcoholism, and suicide rates. They spread the light of Jesus into dark places, bringing hope and healing.

send.org/north

Becky Prichard to Be Ordained

Becky Provence Prichard, daughter of Rev. Kristin Huffman, is being ordained today at 4:00 PM, at First Presbyterian Church San Antonio. Becky grew up at MDPC and was under the care of this congregation during her candidacy for ministry. Dave Peterson, Dave Steane, Rachel Poysky, and Brett Hurst are participating in her ordination service. We wish Becky and her family every blessing!

Youth Confirmation Class

Confirmation is for all students currently in the 8th grade or above. Join us for a time of focusing on what it means to follow Jesus and be part of His Church.

Sundays, Jan 6-Feb 24, 2019

Confirmation Sunday: March 3

Details and registration: confirmation.mdpc.org

\$125 fee covers Confirmation Retreat expenses.

Save the Date: Science & Faith

MDPC's Speaker Series continues, exploring questions about the universe, our origins, how God created life. Two scientists who also are Christians present views of how to interpret Genesis. We'll see how scientific discovery bolsters our faith in and love for God.

Saturday, Oct 13 | 5:00-8:00 PM | Fellowship Hall

Learn more: speakers.mdpc.org

MDPC Young Adult Fall Retreat

Join the young adult community on a retreat from the city to enjoy the tranquility of the Hill Country. This is for 20s to mid-30s looking for a chance to breathe and relax and experience the glory of the Lord with great friends. We will leave Friday after work and return midday Sunday. Food and room provided!

Nov 2-4 | Near Round Top, Texas | \$65 per person

Register today: yaretreat.mdpc.org

Young Adults: Come Have a Taco!

20s to mid-30s: Find the outdoor staircase off the Breezeway and come on up for a taco and Bible study. Classes include The Parish, Fifth Community, and Nearly & Newly, a new class for couples focusing on marriage enrichment. We can't wait to meet you!

Sundays at 11:00 AM | MC Rooms 217, 218, 219

Contact Christyn with questions: cknoop@mdpc.org

WEEKLY FINANCIAL UPDATE

2018 Operating Budget	\$	11,600,000
Expected Income to Date	\$	5,448,112
Actual Income to Date (8/19/18)	\$	5,770,574
Current Income Surplus	\$	322,462
Needed to Meet 2018 Budget	\$	5,829,426

Sunday, August 26, 2018



All In

NO RESTRICTIONS. NO RESERVATIONS. NO REGRETS.

IN COMMUNITY
HEBREWS 10:24-25

8:30 AM BLENDED

WELCOME

Dan Aikins

*SONGS OF PRAISE

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION & ASSURANCE

Rachel Poysky

SONG OF PREPARATION

GIFTS OF GRATITUDE

Dave Steane

MESSAGE

IN COMMUNITY

Alf Halvorson

RESPONSE OF THE PEOPLE

9:45 AM CONTEMPORARY

WORSHIP INVITATION

SONGS OF PRAISE

MOMENT OF CONFESSION & ASSURANCE

Hillary McMullen

SONG OF RESPONSE

MESSAGE

IN COMMUNITY

Alf Halvorson

GIFTS OF GRATITUDE

Tara Reynolds and Dan Aikins

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

11:15 AM TRADITIONAL

PRELUDE

Andante Sostenuto from Symphony No. 1

Brahms/arr. White

WELCOME AND CALL TO WORSHIP

Dan Aikins

CHORAL INTROIT

Sing Unto the Lord

David Stanley York (1920-2010)

*HYMN OF PRAISE

Called as Partners in Christ's Service

#343; Vs. 1, 2, 3 | BEECHER

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE

Trevor Harris

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH from The Apostles' Creed

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

The Gloria Patri

Hymn #579

ANTHEM

All Who Dwell in the Shadow of the Lord

Z. Randall Stroope (b.1953)

GIFTS OF GRATITUDE

Dave Steane

OFFERTORY

His Eye Is On the Sparrow

arr. Donald Moore (b.1910)

MESSAGE

IN COMMUNITY

Alf Halvorson

*HYMN OF RESPONSE

Blest Be the Tie that Binds

#438; Vs. 1, 3, 4 | DENNIS

POSTLUDE

Sonata in F

C.P.E. Bach (1714-1788)

Musicians in this service: Charles Hausmann, conductor; Kathryn White, piano/organ; Sanctuary Choir

*Please stand if able.

CCLI # 182374

Labor Day Sunday Lunch

Burgers & Dogs

Sunday, September 2

11:00 AM-1:00 PM • Fellowship Hall

Menu and prices: laborday.mdpc.org

Everyone's Invited!
Dress casual for church &
stay for lunch.



Loving God. Proclaiming Christ. Living Generously. Engaging All.
11612 Memorial Drive | Houston, Texas 77024 | mdpc.org | 713-782-1710

HARVEY ONE YEAR LATER

MOMENTS OF REFLECTION AND HEALING

This Morning
Come and Go, 9:30 AM-12:30 PM

This morning, we have carved out a quiet space for you to remember the storm in your own way, should you choose to do so. Stations are available to pray, give thanks, receive communion, be anointed with oil, or simply pause to reflect on God's presence in your life.

Come to MC 122 (on the east hallway near the Front Office) to learn more and participate as you please.

MDPC Loves Children!

By participating in the programs below, you can help give students at under-privileged neighborhood schools the opportunity to succeed.

Mentoring/Tutoring
mentoring.MDPC.org

Giving one hour a week can change a child's life.

Backpack Buddy
bpbuddy.MDPC.org

Ensure that hungry children have food on the weekends.

Back to School
backtoschool.MDPC.org

Visit our table today for a simple way to help students!



word AND worship

2018-2019: A Study of Genesis

Five Weekly Day/Time Options • Groups begin September 6
Details and registration: wordandworship.mdpc.org

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. - Colossians 3:16

Start with **Discover MDPC...**

Attend an informal meeting to learn more about MDPC. No commitment required! This is a no-pressure opportunity to meet Pastor Alf and explore what membership means.

Sunday, September 9
10:45-11:10 AM | The Nook

...then explore **New Member Classes**

The four-week New Member class series is taught by the Associate Pastors and Elders, and includes a Saturday service project at one of the organizations supported by MDPC.

Sundays, September 16-October 14
9:45-11:00 AM | MC 122

More info: membership.mdpc.org

CRISIS TRAINING

The Church's Role in Healing After Man-Made and Natural Disasters

Free and open to all. No previous training necessary.

Saturday, September 15
9:00 AM - 12:00 PM • MDPC Amphitheater
*Optional Support-Group Training, 12:00-1:00 PM
Register: crisis.mdpc.org

Are You Prepared to Help Your Neighbor?

ARE YOU "IN COMMUNITY"?

Saved by FAITH

A Study of the Book of Romans

A CHURCH-WIDE STUDY

This fall, MDPC wants our members and friends to get engaged in community by exploring Paul's letter to the Romans together. No "home" Sunday school or small group? No problem! Join us this morning for a new class meeting at 2 times:

9:45 or 11:15 AM | Amphitheater

No registration necessary. If you can't make it for class today, come next week.

Weekday groups available: romans.mdpc.org

MEN'S LIFE 2018

CORE TRAINING

Start your day working on the core building blocks of Men's Life, principles that have been life-changing for men from all over Houston. Find an accountability buddy and commit to this 12-week series that will rebuild the inner workings of your life.

Tuesdays, Sept. 11-Dec. 4
6:30-7:45 AM (NEW TIME!)

Register: ml.mdpc.org

MEN'S LIFE

The Living Well

Revival of Heart
Renewal of Mind
Rest for Soul

A Study of Jesus through the Gospel of Luke

led by Charlotte Crawford

Wednesdays, 6:00-7:15 AM
Begins September 12, 2018

tlw.mdpc.org

*"My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior."
- Luke 1:47*

MDPC Women



THE MUSIC BOX KIDS' CHOIR

Learn about music and choral singing in a fun, worshipful environment! All kids grades K-5 are welcome. Sign up at themusicbox.mdpc.org.

WEDNESDAYS, SEPTEMBER 19-NOVEMBER 14
4:45-5:30 PM | CHAPEL

Walking the Mourner's Path™

This Christ-centered grief program is for those dealing with the loss of a loved one. It is limited to 10 participants, creating a safe place to share feelings with each other and with God. Trained facilitators guide the group. A \$30 registration fee covers program materials.

Thursdays, September 20-November 8
6:00-7:30 PM | MC 116

Register at grief.mdpc.org or with Beverly Fluke (bfluke@mdpc.org, 713-490-9542).



Alpha is an interactive series for you to explore Christian faith. Whether you're a believer, or you're questioning, or maybe you wouldn't even call yourself Christian, this open, honest, and accepting forum is for you.

Starts Tuesday, September 11 | 6:30 PM

Meets weekly through November 13

Alpha is **FREE**. Dinner and childcare are provided.

For more info and to register visit: **alpha.mdpc.org**

Alpha Runs Here.



ALPHA

explore life. faith. meaning.

Alpha is a series of interactive sessions to explore the Christian faith. Each Alpha includes a free meal, a video talk on a topic from the Christian perspective, and a conversation in smaller groups where everyone is encouraged to share their own perspective. No question or comment is off limits and everyone is able to share as much or as little as they'd like.

Alpha is for you if...

- You are wrestling with life's biggest questions: *Does God exist?* or *Why are we here?*
- You are skeptical of faith, but open to having conversations with other folks who have different worldviews.
- You have been a Christian for a while, but still are unsure about parts of the faith.
- You are a new Christian looking to learn the basics of the Christian faith.

If you don't match any of these groups, consider inviting someone you know who does. You can even come along with them. Tear off the section below and offer it as an invitation to a friend, colleague, family member, neighbor, or anyone else.



Alpha



IN COMMUNITY • HEBREWS 10:24-25
SENIOR PASTOR ALF HALVORSON PREACHING

This is the second in our *All In* sermon series. Last week we focused on what *treasuring* means and what Dumbledore meant when he said to Harry Potter in *The Chamber of Secrets*, “It is not our abilities that show what we truly are. It is our choices.” The choices we make; the habits we establish and keep; the disciplines we commit to – these things reveal what we treasure and determine who we will

become. Do your current habits reveal that you know you are treasured by God? That you are *All In* for following Jesus in and through MDPC?

According to the writer of the Book of Hebrews, one key choice (that not all believers choose to make or follow) is recorded in Hebrews 10:24-25. Read that short passage, perhaps adding verses 10:19-25 for greater context.

1. **FIRST HABIT TO NURTURE (vs. 25) “Do not neglect to meet together, as is the habit of some.”** What do you think “meet together” means, especially in the context of verses 19-23? Does it include worship? Small groups? Prayer? Service together? One? Some? All? Why or why not?
2. I tried to make the case, early on in my sermon, that Americans have a hard time with community because of our rugged individualism and consumerism. I quoted Larry Rasmussen and Alexis de Tocqueville to try to make that point. Do you agree or disagree? Give examples from current life to support your contention.
3. I even made the case that it is not, “I think, therefore, I am;” nor is it, “I do, therefore, I am.” I contended it is, “I love, therefore, I am.” React to that idea.
4. **SECOND HABIT TO NURTURE (vs. 24) “Consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds.”** The Greek for the word *provoke* is to “stir up, irritate, contend with, hold accountable.” Have you given anyone in your life permission to provoke you to love and good deeds? I talked about a doctor friend in Ames, Iowa, that members of a small group confronted, and about a Lazarus Group in Springfield, Missouri, that tried to help unwrap people Christ had raised from the dead spiritually, but who were still bound or had physical or emotional wounds. How can you prepare yourself to be on the receiving and giving sides of that equation, because of Christ?
5. **THIRD HABIT TO NURTURE (vs. 25b) “Encourage one another, especially as you see the day approaching.”** I talked about Dietrich Bonhoeffer, who contends in his little book, *Life Together*, that, in Christ, we never approach anyone directly anymore, but only through the filter of Jesus. Once we become Christian, every relationship is mediated through the blood and spirit of Christ. That allows us to encourage (to fill with courage or strength of purpose) with Christ’s love, to forgive with Christ’s forgiveness, and to stay committed to each other, even in the midst of normal disappointment and sins—because we have Christ’s endurance and eternal perspective. Who might God be inviting you to allow into your life to provoke or encourage you? If you don’t have a group where this type of relational authenticity and vulnerability is present, how might you find, create, or fight for it?
6. I ended my sermon with the statement: “Connect or die.” Was I being overly dramatic? Or truthful on a fundamental level? This kind of “going deeper with one another” takes time and trust. Be patient with yourself and others as you grow in transparency and vulnerability. It is worth it.

