HAPPENING AT MDPC

2nd Annual Young Adult Christmas Party

Come ready to mix, mingle, mistletoe, assemble care packages for our college students, have deep conversations in a corner, or just people watch. It's BYOB + pot luck, so please bring something to share.

Saturday, Dec 1 | 7:00 PM

Details and address on the MDPC Young Adult Facebook Page, or text Christyn at 281-734-0914. 20s & 30s, we'll see you there!

Advent Silent Retreat

Everyone is welcome. Villa de Matel provides a beautiful, quiet, reverent setting to stop and listen to God. Monday, Dec 3 | 9:00 AM-2:30 PM Villa de Matel | \$30 (includes lunch and supplies)

Register: silentretreat.mdpc.org

Women's Christmas Coffee

Join MDPC women for a fun kick-off to the Christmas season! Invite your friends and come enjoy the festivities, coffee, wassail, and treats at this holiday tradition. The Yellow School kiddos will lead us in a few carols.

Tuesday, Dec 4 | 9:30-11:00 AM | Parlor

Free childcare by reservation: coffee.mdpc.org

Venturers Christmas Party

Celebrate the birth of our Savior with good food, fellowship, and fun! Must RSVP by this Friday, Nov 30. Thursday, Dec 6 | 6:30 PM | Houston Racquet Club Details and RSVP info: venturers.mdpc.org

All-Day Family Friendly Christmas Party

Join other Young Adults for a potluck holiday meal, stockings and cookie decorating for the kids, a sing-along around the piano, and good fireside conversation. Saturday, Dec 8 | 1:00-8:00 (drop in or stay all day) *RSVP to Sarah Stone*: 832-605-8129

Theology On Tap: BEER & HYMNS

Join us at St. Arnold's for craft beer, food, Christmas pub trivia, and a sing-a-long, TOT style. Panelists will present mini theology lessons from Christmas songs we all know and love, as we drink, learn, and worship. Tuesday, Dec 18 | \$5 gets you craft beer & food 7:00-9:00 PM | St. Arnold's Brewery Tap Room Open to Young Adults (20s & 30s) facebook.com/theologyontaphouston

Merry & Bright

The Contemporary Music Program and REACH art classes will host an art show and Christmas music concert with a special performance art piece.

Wednesday, Dec 12 | 6:00 PM

Art viewing begins at 6:00 PM (Chapel Hallway), then the concert at 7:00 PM (Chapel), followed by a reception hosted by Fuente Ministries (Summit Room).

Spirit Night at Chick-fil-a at I-10 and Silber

Mention Spirit Night as you order (front counter or drive thru) and a 20% of your ticket total will go directly to MDPC Partner, Living Water International.

Wednesday, Dec 5 | 5:00-8:00 PM

For more info, email Ellie Tendall: etendall@gmail.com

Vision Trip: Russia and Ukraine

Far East Broadcasting Company (FEBC) seeks to make Jesus known among the least reached people of the world by sharing the Good News through various media methods. It broadcasts in 113 languages in 49 countries from 149 stations and transmitters (and counting!). We will see how God is working through FEBC in St. Petersburg, then traveling to Kiev to visit multiple stations and hear stories of hope amidst the darkness. Approx. Dates & Cost: Feb. 9-17 | -\$1,500 + airfare Contact Kelsi McCormack: kmccormack@mdpc.org

Married Life Prep

Couples are invited to join us for a four-week course taught by Brett and Kellie Hurst of Home Encouragement. It combines Biblical teaching with the best current marriage research. Open to engaged couples and those n their first 2-3 years of marriage.

Sundays, January 6-27 | 10:00 AM-Noon | CLC 171 Register: mlp.mdpc.org

Alpha Winter 2019

Alpha is a great place to invite people to explore faith and discuss the big questions of life. An 8-week series of interactive sessions that allows people to experience Jesus for themselves and make their own decisions about faith.

Tuesdays, February 5-March 26 | 6:30-8:15 PM Free dinner and free childcare

 $In fo\ and\ RSVP:\ alpha.mdpc.org$

This week, please pray for these MDPC Ministry Partners:

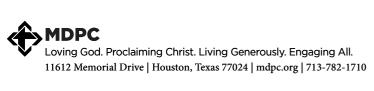
Spring Branch Family Development Center enhances the wellbeing of local families through a multi-agency collaboration that provides health, educational, recreational, and social services. They are located in an area with a largely Hispanic population. More than 6,000 residents live in 1,500 apartment units within walking distance of the Center.

sbfdc.org

Spring Spirit Baseball focuses on the personal development of at-risk youth through baseball, softball, and educational programs. Its goals are to provide a safe and healthy outdoor environment for children to play and learn, to improve the quality of life for youth and their families, and to enrich the lives of youth through mentoring relationships.

springspiritbaseball.org

Transitions Foundation mobilizes disabled Guatemalans through rehabilitation, education, and spiritual development. It was founded to give dignity to the disabled as they work together to make custom wheelchairs and prosthetics. The diligence of the workers and excellent design of their products give new life to many with disabilities. *transitionsfoundation.org*





8:30 AM BLENDED

WELCOME Beth Case

*SONGS OF PRAISE

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE OF PARDON Hillary McMullen

SONG OF PREPARATION

GIFTS OF GRATITUDE

MESSAGE A New Way of Treasuring Alf Halvorson
Psalm | 1/9:1-2. | 1.99. 105

RESPONSE OF THE PEOPLE

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

9:45 AM CONTEMPORARY

WORSHIP INVITATION

*MOMENT OF CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE Laura Miller

SONG OF RESPONSE

MESSAGE A New Way of Treasuring Alf Halvorson

Psalm 119:1-2, 11, 99, 105

GIFTS OF GRATITUDE Beth Case

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

Musicians in these services: Tara Reynolds, Matt Reynolds, and Nico Aranda, worship leaders; Daniel Amaya, bass; George Heathco, guitar; Daniel Martinez, keys; Asher Pudlo, drums

11:15 AM TRADITIONAL

PRELUDE Andante Cantabile from Symphony No. 4 Charles-Marie Widor (1844-1937)

WELCOME AND CALL TO WORSHIP

Beth Case

CHORAL INTROIT Behold Now, Praise the Lord Everett Titcomb (1884-1968)

*HYMN OF PRAISE Now Thank We All Our God #555; Vs. 1, 2, 3 | Nun Danket Alle Gott

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE Dan Aikins

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH from the United Church of Canada

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE The Gloria Patri Hymn #579

ANTHEM The Majesty and Glory of Your Name Tom Fettke (b. 1951)

OFFERTORY O Light of Life Mack Wilberg (b. 1955)

MESSAGE A New Way of Treasuring Alf Halvorson

Psalm 119:1-2, 11, 99, 105

*HYMN OF RESPONSE Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us #387; Vs. 1 & 2 | Bradbury

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE Toccata on Come Thou Fount Gordon Young (1919-1998)

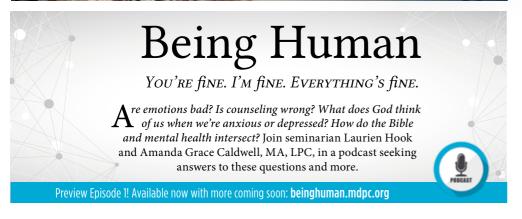
Musicians in this service: Charles Hausmann, conductor; Kathryn White, organ; Sanctuary Choir

* Please stand if able. CCLI # 182374





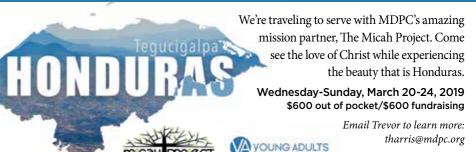








MDPC Young Adults on Mission 2019





Partners In Prayer commit to praying for their fellow MDPC members and a mission partner, each day for one year. Pastor Alf's goal is to have 1,000 or more Prayers for 2019. Help make it happen! To learn more and sign up:

pip.mdpc.org

This is the third and final message in our short series on a new way to pray, which overcomes repetition, boredom, and distraction by praying the Psalms. Last week, Martha helped us see meditation as a way to facilitate Scripture getting deep into our minds and hearts and lives. Today, we look at a final discipline (memorization), which makes the Bible portable; you can take it everywhere without A New Way of Treasuring packing it in a purse or briefcase, or relying on your phone.

Jerry Bridges has written, "I am very much aware that



Psalm 119:1-2, 11, 99, 105 Alf Halvorson preaching

Scripture memorization has largely fallen by the wayside in our day...But let me say as graciously but firmly as I can: We cannot effectively pursue holiness without the Word of God stored up in our minds where it can be used by the Holy Spirit to transform us...I know it requires work and is sometimes discouraging when we can't recall accurately a verse we have worked hard to memorize. The truth is, however, all forms of discipline require work and are often discouraging. But the person who perseveres in any discipline, despite the hard work and discouraging times, reaps the reward the discipline is intended to produce." Richard Halverson, the former Chaplain of the Senate, concurs when he says, "There is discipline involved in Christian Growth. The rapidity with which a man (or woman) grows spiritually and the extent to which he (or she) grows, depends upon this discipline. It is the discipline of the means."

- 1. What has been your experience with memorization in general? And Scriptural memorization in particular? Would you say you have a strong memory or a weak one or something in-between?
- 2. Read Ps. 119:1-2, 11, 99, 105; Prov. 7:1-3; and Col. 3:16a. What justification or inspiration do these verses give for memorizing God's Word? Are there other Scriptures you know which also give a reason to "treasure the Word in your hearts"? Discuss...
- 3. I defined memorization as "sustained repetition." It sounds a little like meditation. How are they similar and different, in your mind?
- 4. I talked in my sermon about Tom Sutherland, Dean of Agriculture at American University in Beirut, who was kidnapped by Iranian-backed Hezbollah militants in Lebanon. He was in captivity for six and a half years (almost 2400 days). Ponder what he said "saved his life."
- 5. I discussed my own memorization project this fall, and some of the benefits I have experienced from having God's word more easily accessible in my life. Which one or ones hit you and why? What aspect would be helpful in your life right now?
- 6. I made a connection between a woman in the hospital who had "not one calorie in that whole stack of magazines to help her through her experience" and another who canned berries and fruits and vegetables so that in the middle of winter she could go down into the cellar and bring out fresh food when she needed it. How might you become more like the second person? How can we support and encourage each other in this spiritual discipline?

Note: These are the four resources I recommend for memorization of Scripture:

- Topical Memory System by NavPress
- 100 Bible Verses Everyone Should Know By Heart by Robert J. Morgan
- The "50 Passages from the Old and New Testament" bookmarks handed out today
- Smartphone app Bible Memory: Scripture Typer