

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](http://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](http://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](http://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-a-long 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](http://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](mailto: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](mailto: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 in their first 2-3 years of marriage.  
**Sundays, January 6-27 | 10:00 AM-Noon | CLC 171**  
*Register: [mlp.mdpc.org](http://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**  
*Info and RSVP: [alpha.mdpc.org](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://transitionsfoundation.org)*

Sunday, November 25, 2018



HOW TO GET  
**CLOSER  
TO GOD**

A New Way of Treasuring | *Psalm 119:1-2, 11, 99, 105*

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 <i>Psalm 119:1-2, 11, 99, 105</i>	Alf Halvorson
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 <i>Psalm 119:1-2, 11, 99, 105</i>	Alf Halvorson
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	<i>Andante Cantabile from Symphony No. 4</i>	Charles-Marie Widor (1844-1937)
WELCOME AND CALL TO WORSHIP		Beth Case
CHORAL INTROIT	<i>Behold Now, Praise the Lord</i>	Everett Titcomb (1884-1968)
*HYMN OF PRAISE	<i>Now Thank We All Our God</i>	#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	<i>The Gloria Patri</i>	Hymn #579
ANTHEM	<i>The Majesty and Glory of Your Name</i>	Tom Fetteke (b. 1951)
OFFERTORY	<i>O Light of Life</i>	Mack Wilberg (b. 1955)
MESSAGE	A New Way of Treasuring <i>Psalm 119:1-2, 11, 99, 105</i>	Alf Halvorson
*HYMN OF RESPONSE	<i>Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us</i>	#387; Vs. 1 & 2   BRADBURY
*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION		
POSTLUDE	<i>Toccata on Come Thou Fount</i>	Gordon Young (1919-1998)

# When HOPE was Born

## Family Christmas Festival

Sunday, December 2  
5:00-7:00 PM

Dinner\*, Bingo, Face Painting, Advent Calendar Jars, a Hot Chocolate Bar, a Service Project\*\*, and more!

\*Festival is free, with dinner available for a small fee:

RSVP for dinner: [hope.mdpc.org](http://hope.mdpc.org)  
\$8/adult • \$4/child • \$28 family max)

\*\*Please bring a 64-oz plastic bottle of apple juice for the service project.



## Mission Market Opens Soon!

Sundays, December 2-23  
Sanctuary Lobby between services

When you purchase MM Christmas cards to gift to friends and family, **100% of money received** is sent to the MDPC ministry partner(s) of your choice. Your cards **support medical mission** in Guatemala, **spread the Gospel message** in our community, **minister to children orphaned by AIDS**, and so much more.

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

Mission Market  
Christmas Cards

New card for 2018!

# Christmas for Kids

## Give a Child a Special Christmas!

You can gift to kids on MDPC's Mobile Unit route through **Toy Train**, or through **MDPC Women's** partnership with Small Steps Nurturing Center.

Details at the links below.

[gifts.mdpc.org](http://gifts.mdpc.org) or [toytrain.mdpc.org](http://toytrain.mdpc.org)



**MDPC Concert Series**  
2018-2019

MDPC Sanctuary Choir and Houston Christian High School Chamber Choir present a Christmas concert to the glory of God.

**Sunday, December 16**  
6:00 PM | Sanctuary

Details and season schedule:  
[concerts.mdpc.org](http://concerts.mdpc.org)

Admission is free to this community event.



## YOUTH CONFIRMATION 2019

For students currently in 8th grade or above. It's a time to **focus** on what it means to **follow Jesus** and be part of His church.

Confirmation classes begin **Sunday, January 6, 2019**

Details at the link. Register by December 3:  
[confirmation.mdpc.org](http://confirmation.mdpc.org)

## MDPC Young Adults on Mission 2019



We're traveling to serve with MDPC's amazing mission partner, The Micah Project. Come see the love of Christ while experiencing the beauty that is Honduras.

Wednesday-Sunday, March 20-24, 2019  
\$600 out of pocket/\$600 fundraising

Email Trevor to learn more:  
[tharris@mdpc.org](mailto:tharris@mdpc.org)

# Being Human

*YOU'RE FINE. I'M FINE. EVERYTHING'S FINE.*

Are emotions bad? Is counseling wrong? What does God think of us when we're anxious or depressed? How do the Bible and mental health intersect? Join seminarian Laurien Hook and Amanda Grace Caldwell, MA, LPC, in a podcast seeking answers to these questions and more.

Preview Episode 1! Available now with more coming soon: [beinghuman.mdpc.org](http://beinghuman.mdpc.org)



# Partner in Prayer

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

This is the third and final message in our short series on *How to Get Closer to God*. Week One we talked about 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 packing it in a purse or briefcase, or relying on your phone.

## HOW TO GET CLOSER TO GOD

### A New Way of Treasuring

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

Alf Halvorson preaching

Jerry Bridges has written, “I am very much aware that 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 Halvorson, 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*

