

**Change the World One Child at a Time...**

Do you have a heart to see students succeed in school and realize their full potential? Spending as little as one hour a week with an at-risk student—reading, doing homework, having lunch, or simply being a listening ear and encourager—can change the course of their future!

See today's bulletin insert or visit [change.mdpc.org](http://change.mdpc.org).

**The Fabric of Mission**

If you have extra fabric lying around, our Sewing for Missions group can use it for one of their outreach projects. Our Uganda mission team recently took dozens of their beautiful handmade dresses to the girls living at Lulwanda Children's Home.

Fabric can be dropped off at the Outreach Offices.

**Discover MDPC**

This no-pressure opportunity introduces you to MDPC. You can meet Pastor Alf and explore what membership means. No commitment required!

This morning, 10:45-11:15 AM | The Nook

**Come Serve and Fight Hunger!**

1 in 4 Houstonian children often go without meals because their families cannot afford to buy food. A simple way you can help is to come prepare meals with us at Houston Food Bank (HFB). We need your help to keep the fight against childhood hunger moving forward. It's not too late to join us tomorrow!

Next date: Monday, September 9 | 8:00 AM-Noon

Register and more details: [hfb.mdpc.org](http://hfb.mdpc.org)

**Knitting for Missions: The Evening Edition**

Can't make our daytime group? Come to The Evening Edition of Knitting for Mission at the home of Shari Halvorson. Meetings begin September 10 and will continue thereafter on second Tuesdays of the month.

Begins Tuesday, September 10

Contact Shari for details: [halvorsons4@yahoo.com](mailto:halvorsons4@yahoo.com)

**New Member Class**

This 4-week 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, Sept 15-Oct 6 | 9:45-11:00 AM | Room 122

Register: [membership.mdpc.org](http://membership.mdpc.org)

**Community Art Gallery**

MDPC's Community Gallery kicks off the fall season with the beautiful art of Bridget Wolk, MDPC's long-time REACH class art teacher. Bridget shares her passion for art with her students in weekly painting classes and is a leader in MDPC's art community. The Gallery has a new look with more lights and space. Come see for yourself!

East Hallway, between MC 122 and The Nook

**YA Swim & Volleyball Cookout**

Sit by the pool, cool off in the water, and play some volleyball (or just jump around in the sand). All skill levels welcome! Bring whatever food you'd like for dinner (outdoor grills available) and drinks (NO GLASS).

Saturday, Sept 14 | 1:00 PM

10440 Deerwood, 77042

Contact Sarah for details on accessing the pool area: 832-605-8129 (text or call), [ssone@mdpc.org](mailto:ssone@mdpc.org)

**Noche de Sabor**

MDPC Multicultural Ministries invites you to a celebration of Hispanic culture in honor of National Hispanic Heritage Month. Come experience the many traditions and cultures represented here in our church! *¡Todos son bienvenidos!*

Saturday, Sept 28 | 6:00 PM | Fellowship Hall

28 de Sept | 6:00 PM | Salón de Compañerismo

**Marriage Retreat 2019**

Longtime marriage educators Brett and Kellie Hurst of Home Encouragement lead a fun and intentional getaway weekend focused on your married life. The retreat includes a comfortable atmosphere, excellent food, a one-on-one date night with your spouse, and expert teaching.

Sept 28-29 | Sugar Land Marriott | \$220/couple

Register: [marriageretreat.mdpc.org](http://marriageretreat.mdpc.org)

**Youth Confirmation**

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

Kick-off: Sunday Evening, January 5, 2020

Sundays, January 12-March 1 | 11:00 AM-12:15 PM

Confirmation Sunday: Sunday, March 8

Register: [confirmation.mdpc.org](http://confirmation.mdpc.org)

\$125 fee covers Confirmation Retreat expenses.

**WEEKLY MINISTRY PARTNER PRAYER FOCUS**

**Outreach Center of West Houston** offers programs that restore purpose and productivity to clients' lives, helping them learn new skills, develop healthy relationships, and experience positive growth. Its core programs include Palmer Drug Abuse Program, Alcoholics Anonymous, Family Point Resources, Young Life, and Fellowship of Memorial. [oc-wh.org](http://oc-wh.org)

**Palmer Drug Abuse Program** helps youth and their families recover from the devastating effects of drug and alcohol abuse. The program is run in Houston-area churches, providing 12-step programs, support, and education and prevention workshops. It also offers free individual and family counseling. [pdaphouston.org](http://pdaphouston.org)

**MDPC Field Partners Steven and Natalie Hall** live in Texas, where they support SEND North, their ministry in Alaska and the Northern Territory. Its focus is on the unreached people of the 60-70 parallel, who deal with elevated depression, alcoholism, and suicide rates. [send.org/north](http://send.org/north)

**WEEKLY FINANCIAL UPDATE**

at 9/1/19

2019 Annual Budget	\$12,240,000
Actual Income to Date	\$6,248,549
<b>Needed to Meet Budget</b>	<b>\$5,991,451</b>

Sunday, September 8, 2019



**INTO THE MARGINS**  
THE PARABLES OF LUKE

The Seeds & The Soils  
Luke 8:4-15  
Alf Halvorson preaching

8:30 AM BLENDED & 9:45 AM CONTEMPORARY

PRAISE & WORSHIP • CONFESSION • MESSAGE • OFFERING

**BAPTISMS** (9:45)

Savannah Grace Brown, daughter of Matthew and Kaitlin Brown  
Townes Kennon Smith, son of Bryce Smith & Meredith Smith

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 MUSIC**

<b>PRELUDE</b>	<i>Fugue in D Minor</i>	Johann Ernst Eberlin (1702-1762)
<b>CHORAL INTROIT</b>	<i>The Tree of Life</i>	K. Lee Scott (b. 1950)
<b>*HYMN OF PRAISE</b>	<i>Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty</i>	#489; vs. 1, 3   UNSER HERRSCHER
<b>BAPTISMS</b>		
	Pearl Alison Nieto, daughter of Mitchel and Sara Nieto	
	Pierre Emory Viaud, son of Guillermo and Christen Viaud	
<b>ANTHEM</b>	<i>The Word Was God</i>	Rosephanye Powell (b. 1962)
<b>OFFERTORY</b>	<i>Make Me an Instrument of Thy Peace</i>	Mary McDonald (b. 1956)
<b>*CLOSING HYMN</b>	<i>Trust and Obey</i>	vs. 1, 3   TRUST AND OBEY
<b>POSTLUDE</b>	<i>Menuet Gothique</i>	Léon Boëllmann (1862-1897)

Musicians in this service:

Dr. Charles Hausmann, conductor; Dr. Jeff Hoover, guest organist

*Building Tomorrow Today!*



Two new capital projects recently were funded through your gifts to the **Legacy Capital Fund**:

- ➔ (12) children's classrooms updated (new paint, millwork, flooring, & plumbing fixtures)
- ➔ (2) new boilers replaced worn out units to assure continued heat on demand

Visit [LEGACY.MDPC.ORG](http://LEGACY.MDPC.ORG) to learn more.

**Who will you bring?**

Alpha is for Christians and non-Christians. With no question or subject off-limits, it's a comfortable setting to talk about the tough stuff, like doubts or fears or inadequacy. Mark your calendar, and maybe start thinking...who will you bring?

**Tuesdays, Sept. 24 to Nov. 19**  
**6:30-8:15 PM • MDPC**

Free dinner, free childcare

Learn more: [alpha.mdpc.org](http://alpha.mdpc.org)

# word AND worship

Sundays, Wednesdays, or Thursdays  
Sept. 2019 – Apr. 2020 • Cost: \$40

Exodus tells the story of how God rescues His people from oppression in Egypt and leads them through the wilderness. God remains faithful to His covenant and demonstrates His great love for His people countless times throughout this book. Join us as we learn more about our faithful God.

▶ [wordandworship.mdpc.org](http://wordandworship.mdpc.org)

# EX DUS

## Walking Through Luke with the Pastors

Stand-alone lessons following the "Transformed by Hope" study. Choose either 9:45 or 11:15 AM, Amphitheater.

**Today:** Clay Brown, Equipping Pastor  
"The Best News Ever," Luke 2:1-20

**Next week:** Luke 2:21-52

## Other Opportunities to join *Transformed by Hope*

- **9:45 and 11:15 AM:** 15 participating Sunday-morning classes
- **Together in the Word, 9:45 AM, MC 127:** New in-depth group study **starting TODAY!** Weekly preparation and readings, registration required. Limited to 18 participants.
- **Wednesday Evening Study & Discussion group, 6:30-7:30 PM:** MDPC's Kitchen is open so you can have dinner beforehand! Prices/menus at [food.mdpc.org](http://food.mdpc.org).

# transformed by HOPE

A Study of the Gospel of Luke

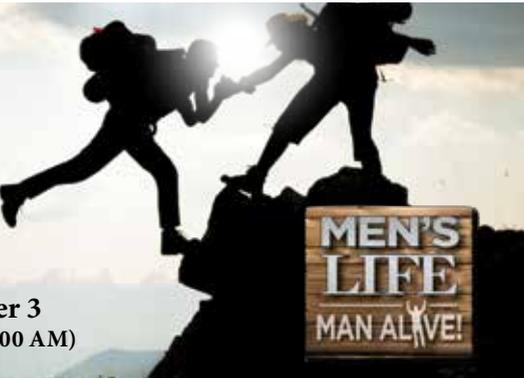
Nothing transforms you like studying the words and deeds of Jesus Christ in Scripture! Come grow by exploring the Gospel of Luke.

Learn more at [luke.mdpc.org](http://luke.mdpc.org) or visit one of the classes listed at left.

# MEN'S LIFE: Man Alive!

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

**Tuesdays, September 10–December 3**  
6:30-7:45 AM (Continental Breakfast at 6:00 AM)



## WE GOT YOU, MOM!

Mothers Of Preschoolers (MOPS) provides a break in the week to relax over breakfast, chat with other moms, and enjoy great content.

**Alternating Thursdays (Next meeting: Sept 12) | 9:30-11:15 AM | Parlor**

### Evening MOPS

If you're a working mom or evenings better fit your schedule, join us for dinner and meaningful conversations.

Monthly beginning Wed, Sept 18 | 6:00-7:00 PM | MC 102

Registration for either group: [MOPS.MDPC.ORG](http://MOPS.MDPC.ORG)

FREE  
childcare at  
both times!

# TO THE FULL

# THE BIG 10

Not to be confused with the start of college football! This "Big Ten" walks us through the Ten Commandments and reveals their continuing insight for today's world. Taught by pastors Beth Case, Rachel Poysky, and Clay Brown. The Tuesday Morning Bible Study is back!

**Tuesdays starting September 10**  
9:00-10:00 AM • MC 122

*No homework • No pre-registration*

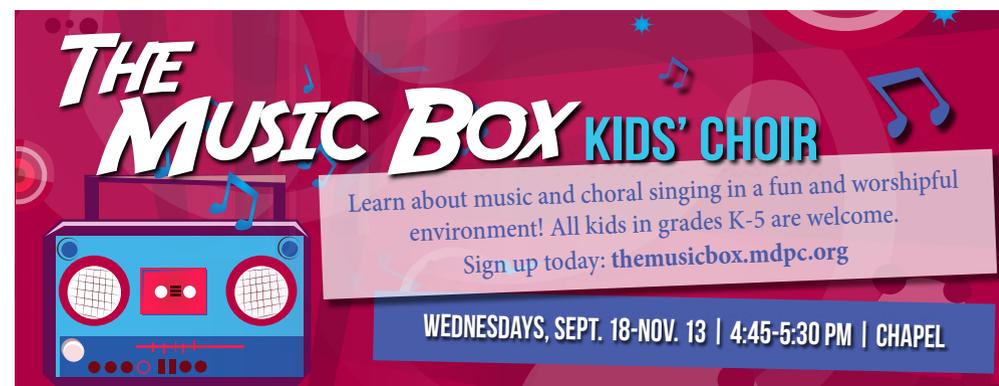


# THE MUSIC BOX KIDS' CHOIR

Learn about music and choral singing in a fun and worshipful environment! All kids in grades K-5 are welcome.

Sign up today: [themusicbox.mdpc.org](http://themusicbox.mdpc.org)

**WEDNESDAYS, SEPT. 18-NOV. 13 | 4:45-5:30 PM | CHAPEL**



# The Living Well

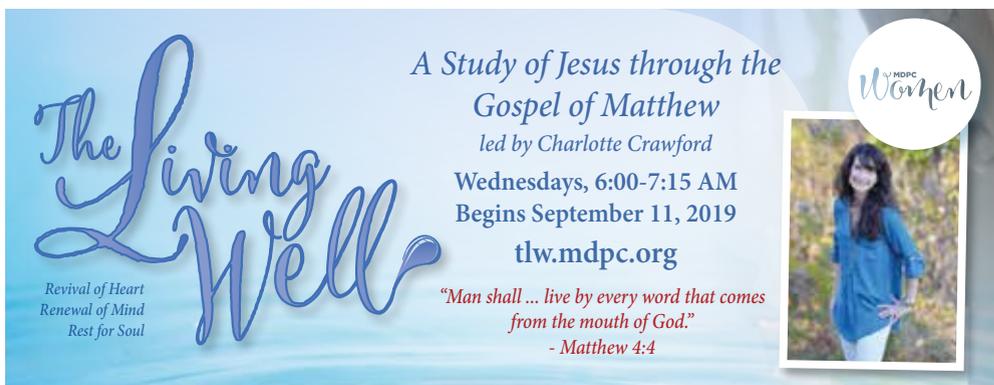
Revival of Heart  
Renewal of Mind  
Rest for Soul

*A Study of Jesus through the Gospel of Matthew*  
led by Charlotte Crawford

Wednesdays, 6:00-7:15 AM  
Begins September 11, 2019

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

*"Man shall ... live by every word that comes from the mouth of God."*  
- Matthew 4:4

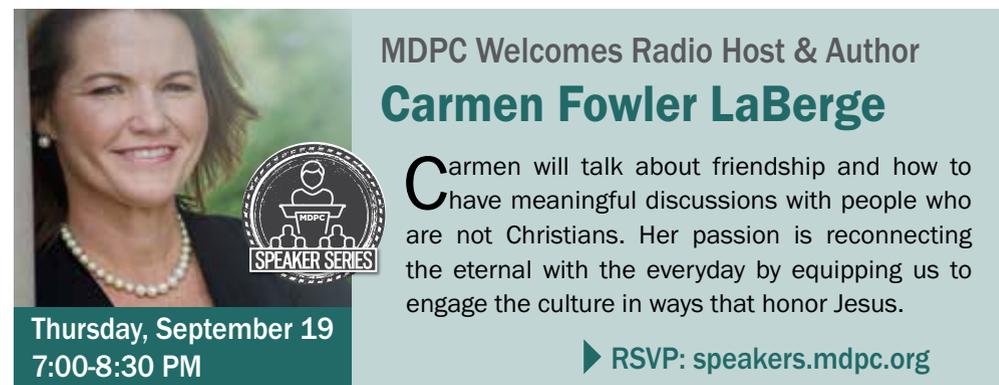


## MDPC Welcomes Radio Host & Author Carmen Fowler LaBerge

Carmen will talk about friendship and how to have meaningful discussions with people who are not Christians. Her passion is reconnecting the eternal with the everyday by equipping us to engage the culture in ways that honor Jesus.

**Thursday, September 19**  
7:00-8:30 PM

▶ **RSVP:** [speakers.mdpc.org](http://speakers.mdpc.org)



# Books WITH A Message

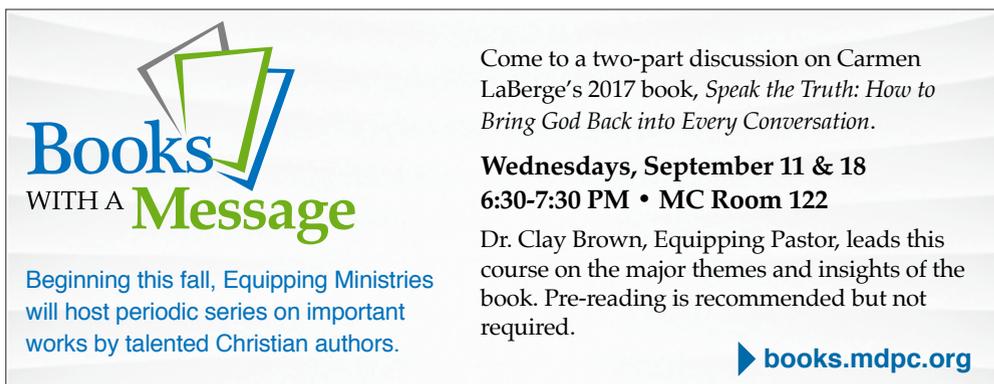
Beginning this fall, Equipping Ministries will host periodic series on important works by talented Christian authors.

Come to a two-part discussion on Carmen LaBerge's 2017 book, *Speak the Truth: How to Bring God Back into Every Conversation*.

**Wednesdays, September 11 & 18**  
6:30-7:30 PM • MC Room 122

Dr. Clay Brown, Equipping Pastor, leads this course on the major themes and insights of the book. Pre-reading is recommended but not required.

▶ [books.mdpc.org](http://books.mdpc.org)



Next Sunday is the deadline to register!

# MDPC 2019 Global Mission Trips

**Living Water Intl. Mission Trip**  
Honduras: December 7-14, 2019  
Cost: \$1,500 Total

Witness the transformational power of water firsthand as you drill a water well, teach sanitation and hygiene lessons, and share God's love with the community. The work you do on this trip will forever impact the community you visit!

To learn more, contact Kelsi McCormack at [kmccormack@mdpc.org](mailto:kmccormack@mdpc.org) or 713-490-9295.



# Change the World One Child at a time...

Help young students succeed by mentoring, tutoring, or volunteering!

## PANTHER PALS at Piney Point Elementary School

**Read to, Mentor, or Tutor a Child**  
October-May (Training in mid-Sept.)  
Tuesday or Thursday,  
8:00-9:00 or 9:00-10:00 AM

**School Volunteers:** Other opportunities to serve arise throughout the year, like staff appreciation events, campus projects, assisting teachers, helping with gardening, or seasonal school activities.

**Weekly Teachers' Workshop:** Mondays, 1:00-5:00 PM  
All are welcome. Come when you can and stay only as long as you can!

Contact Chris Gehrman ([chrisgehrman@gmail.com](mailto:chrisgehrman@gmail.com), 713-410-9872) or Judyehartman ([judyehart@gmail.com](mailto:judyehart@gmail.com), 832-563-7244)



## IMPACT at Spring Woods Middle School

**Mentor Sixth Graders:**  
October-May, Monday-Friday  
40 minutes/week (Day is flexible), 11:00 AM

**Training at MDPC (choose one):**  
Wednesday, September 11 • 6:00-8:00 PM (Dinner included)

Sunday, September 22 • 12:30-2:30 PM (Lunch included)

**Volunteer for an Event:** Various dates & projects throughout the year.

Contact Sharon Fox ([ssfox@icloud.com](mailto:ssfox@icloud.com), 713-502-6346) or Kathryn White ([kwhite@mdpc.org](mailto:kwhite@mdpc.org), 713-490-0943)

## HUG at Housman Elementary

**Tutor Second Graders in Basic Math & Reading**

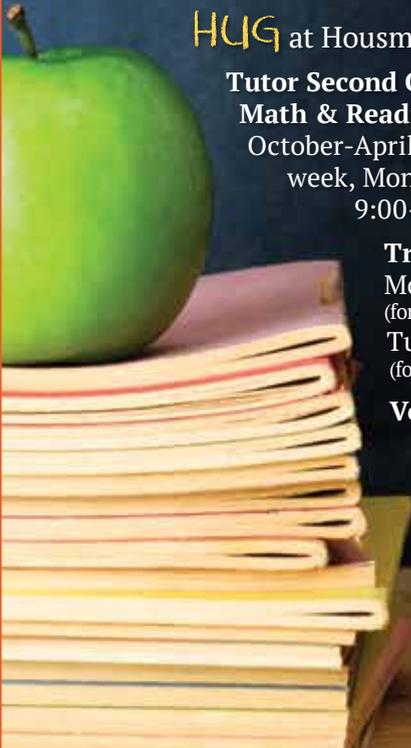
October-April, One morning a week, Monday-Thursday, 9:00-10:00 AM

**Training at Housman (choose one):**  
Monday, September 23 • 9:00-11:00 AM  
(for Monday and Tuesday tutors)

Tuesday, September 24 • 9:00-11:00 AM  
(for Wednesday and Thursday tutors)

**Volunteer:** Read to kindergarten students, help with staff events, or lend a hand in the library.

Contact Laura Bushong:  
[lrbushong@att.net](mailto:lrbushong@att.net), 281-455-2780



**MDPC**  
Memorial Drive  
Presbyterian Church  
[change.mdpc.org](http://change.mdpc.org)

# INTO THE MARGINS

## THE PARABLES OF LUKE

### The Seeds & The Soils

Luke 8:4-15 | Alf Halvorson preaching

Since most of our Sunday school classes and small groups are studying the Gospel of Luke this program year, I thought I would preach on the parables from Luke the rest of the fall. They are amazing stories from the mouth of our Savior and reinforce the messages we have just received from John 4 and the Woman at the Well regarding being witnesses for Christ.

*Parable* comes from the Greek roots *para* and *bole*, meaning respectively “along-side” and “placed/thrown.” These two Greek words together mean that “one thing is placed beside another;” the purpose of placing one thing beside another is to make clearer one of those two things. A good synonym for “parable” is “comparison.” Jesus uses this technique of comparing something that is clear to the audience with something less clear to help us understand things like the Kingdom of God, our lives, the World, God’s character, etc.

The context of the parable in Luke 8 is this: The synagogues are no longer open to Jesus. He’s opposed by the Pharisees and the Sadducees. So He takes to the roads, hillsides, lakeshores, and villages to share His Message. He used to cast seed (The Word, God’s Speech) in primarily one place. Now He spreads it more widely. Is that wise? How will it be received? And why is there different receptivity in different people? Jesus tries to answer these questions with the parable in Luke 8:4-15.

1. Read Luke 8:4-8. What does the sower do? Does the sower sow sparingly or extravagantly? What are the four types of soil mentioned? And what happens to each seed?
2. Read Luke 8:9-10. What do the disciples ask Jesus? Do you ask Jesus to help you? With what types of things and how do you ask? And what is Jesus’ response? It sounds somewhat *cold* and *mean* here. How do you interpret it? (Leon Morris in his commentary on these verses says, “Parables both reveal and conceal truth: they reveal it to the genuine seeker who will take the trouble to dig beneath the surface and discover the meaning, but they conceal it from him who is content simply to listen to the story... Parables are a mine of information to those who are in earnest, but they are a judgment on the casual and the careless.”)
3. Read Luke 8:11-15. Rarely does Jesus explain His parables, once told. I have heard it said that “an explained parable is as flat as an explained joke.” Why did Jesus choose to explain this parable? According to Jesus, why are the first three soils unproductive? They seem closed-hearted, shallow-hearted, and crowded-hearted. Give examples of people today in each category. Have you ever been in those categories?
4. In vs 15, what does the good soil do that the other soils do not? According to vs 8, the good soil produced one hundred-fold. Where have you seen that in certain people’s lives?
5. Would you describe yourself as hard-hearted, cold-hearted, making a half-hearted effort, kind-hearted, good-hearted, warm-hearted, or some “other-hearted” right now? What, according to Jesus, tills the soil of our hearts so they are more and more receptive to the seed/Word?

*Holding fast* means something like “owning it,” “possessing,” “being devoted to,” and “persevering with.” How does that help you with your response to God’s great gift of Himself through the Word/seed? He sows; we \_\_\_\_\_.

