

MDPC Coordinating Team

Mauricio Chacón | Latino Ministries Pastor
 Amy Delgado | Interim Outreach Director
 Ginny Glass | Communications & Media Director
 Meliza Gómez | Contemporary Music Director
 Alf Halvorson | Senior Pastor
 Charles Hausmann | Traditional Music Director
 Brett Hurst | Relationships Pastor
 Christyn Knoop | Young Adults Director
 Gena Kooken | Senior Leadership Ministry Coord.
 Laura Miller | Youth Director
 Rick Myers | Caring Ministries Pastor
 Rachel Poysky | Children's Pastor
 Becky Riggs | Business Administrator
 Dave Steane | Executive Pastor
 Kathryn White | Coordinating Music Director
 Karen Winship | Human Resources Director

Pastors Emeritus

Dave Peterson
 Gary Bowker

STUDY & SMALL GROUP SPOTLIGHT



BLESS Study Group

Join other men in their 20s to 60s for dinner, fellowship, and book study.

Thursdays, 6:30 PM | Member Home (Memorial)

If you're interested in joining us or have any questions, contact Bret West at westbret@wellsfargo.com.

The Red Rose is given in honor of:

- Elizabeth Brantley Butrum born April 9, 2017, to Kelly and Grant Butrum. Elizabeth is the granddaughter of Dennis and Sally Nelson.
- Katherine Grace Crawley was born April 15, 2017, to Elizabeth and Rob Crawley. Katherine is the granddaughter of John and Lynne Williams.

The White Rose is given in memory of:

- Jo Pyle, who passed away April 2, 2017.
- Rachael Marie Talbert, who passed away April 8, 2017.
- Charles Lang, who passed away April 12, 2017.
- Joe Kohlmaier, who passed away April 13, 2017.

Outreach Ministry Partners 2017

This week, we ask that you pray for these partners in ministry that MDPC assists with your support:

ESCAPE Family Resource Center works to prevent child abuse and neglect by providing intervention, education, and support programs to families in crisis. It teaches families techniques to prevent violence in the home, especially the emotional, physical, and sexual abuse of children.

learntoparent.org

Faithful Fathering encourages and equips dads to become the true heroes of the next generation by sensitizing men and their families to the impact a father has on his children. Fathers, stepfathers, grandfathers, and father figures are encouraged to establish the legacy of rearing a godly generation.

faithfulfathering.org

Faith In Practice works to improve the physical, spiritual, and economic conditions of the poor in Guatemala through short-term medical mission trips and health education. The doctors, nurses, and dentists who volunteer on these missions are called by God to demonstrate the love and compassion that is a sign of His presence among us.

faithinpractice.org

Operating Income

2017 Annual Budget	\$ 11,400,000	100%
Actual Income to Date (April 16, 2017)	\$ 2,481,116	22%
Needed to Meet 2017 Budget	\$ 8,918,884	78%

Looking for a Place to Serve?

ESCAPE Family Resource Center in nearby Spring Branch educates families with the purpose of preventing child abuse. Parents learn skills to communicate with their children, recognize their unique needs, and discipline without punishment. ESCAPE's annual Celebrity Serve Benefit dinner is this evening at Tony's, organized largely by volunteers. Join its initiatives now, and be part of making next year's event even better!

To get involved or learn more, contact Sandi Mercado at smercado@learntoparent.org or 713-942-9500.



Jesus Talks

With Nicodemus
 John 3:1-16

Coming Up at MDPC

Fuente 10th Anniversary Celebration

Come celebrate the 10th Anniversary of MDPC's Fuente Hispanic Ministries! We'll have music, testimonies, cultural dances, food, and lots of fun.

Today! 12:15-1:30 PM | Fellowship Hall
fuente10.mdpc.org

Fifth Community: New Today!

All are invited into a new Sunday experience. We'll take a deep dive into each week's sermon. Bring in your coffee and your questions! We'll have Q&A, discussion, teaching, prayer, and communion.

Sundays, 11:00 AM | Amphitheater
fifth.mdpc.org

Special Guest Speaker:

Rear Admiral Margaret Grun Kibben

Pastor Alf says, "While away from my previous church for four straight weeks, I brought in a power-packed series of big name preachers, seminary presidents, etc. When I returned, the person deemed the most impactful in her talk was my friend, Margaret Kibben. Make the time to attend, and invite family, friends, and neighbors. You will be glad and blessed that you did."

Thursday, April 27 | 7:00 PM | Chapel
kibben.mdpc.org

Venturers presents: Texas Highways

As the district engineer for TxDOT's Houston district, the largest in Texas, speaker Quincy Allen is responsible for developing programs to meet transportation needs, including construction, maintenance, and traffic control.

Monday, May 1 | 6:00 PM | Westchase Hilton
 RSVP by April 25 to Chuck & Linnie Edwards: 9350 Shady Lane Circle, 77063 (713-785-7115)

We Love Our Teachers & Leaders!

MDPC wants to show appreciation to the men and women who lead our children's, youth, and adult classes and groups throughout the year. We truly are a better community, Engaging All with the love of Christ, because of you. Teachers and leaders and their families are invited to stop by Fellowship Hall for a breakfast treat and to let us say *Thank You!*

Next Sunday, April 30 | 9:15-11:45 AM

Stephen Ministry Lunch & Learn

A Stephen Minister walks beside those who are hurting or facing trials in life. Learn more about this special ministry at an informational "Lunch & Learn." You can ask questions, meet Stephen Ministers, and hear about their experiences.

Next Sunday, April 30 | 12:30-1:30 PM
 RSVP to Beverly Fluke: bfluke@mdpc.org, 713-490-9542

Facebook COO Sheryl Sandberg with KIPP Founder Dr. Mike Feinberg

Sheryl Sandberg, co-author with Adam Grant of *OPTION B*, will be in conversation with Dr. Mike Feinberg, discussing building resilience and moving forward after life's inevitable setbacks.

Friday, May 12 | 7:00 PM | Sanctuary
 This is a ticketed event. Details at bluewillow.mdpc.org.

Heartbreaks, Hopes, & Heroes

Are the Old Testament stories just quaint tales or can they become a narrative that speaks into our lives? If the Christian life is supposed to be so wonderful, why is my own such a mess? A variety of teachers lead this four-part summer study. Join us!

Wednesdays starting May 17 | 7:00-8:00 PM
 Details and registration: hhh.mdpc.org



MDPC MORNING WORSHIP

*Please stand if able.

CCLI # 182374

8:30 AM SERVICE

GATHERING MUSIC

WELCOME

Dave Steane

*SONGS OF PRAISE

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION & ASSURANCE

Brett Hurst

SONGS OF RESPONSE

GIFTS OF GRATITUDE

MESSAGE

Jesus Talks with Nicodemus (John 3:1-16)

Alf Halvorson

RESPONSE OF THE PEOPLE

9:45 AM SERVICE

WORSHIP INVITATION

*CALL TO WORSHIP

*MOMENT OF CONFESSION & ASSURANCE

Sarah Stone

SONG OF RESPONSE

BAPTISM

Charles Chang

Alf Halvorson

GIFTS OF GRATITUDE

Kyle Collins

MESSAGE

Jesus Talks with Nicodemus (John 3:1-16)

Alf Halvorson

Musicians in these services: Gus Alvarado, drums • Sahily Reyes Esteves and Meliza Gómez, worship leaders • Joe Gavito, guitar • Craig Gysler, keys • Dennis Whittaker, bass

11:15 AM SERVICE

PRELUDE

Lord of the Dance

Traditional Shaker Melody/arr. Mark Hayes

WELCOME AND CALL TO WORSHIP

Dave Steane

CHORAL INTROIT

Christ the Lord Is Risen Again

John Rutter (b.1945)

*HYMN OF PRAISE

Crown Him with Many Crowns

#151; Vs. 1, 2, 4 | DIADEMATA

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE

Amy Delgado

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH from the Apostles' Creed

ANTHEM

Just as He Said

Valerie Crescenz (b. 1965)

OFFERTORY

Eternal Life

Craig Courtney (b. 1948)

MESSAGE

Jesus Talks with Nicodemus (John 3:1-16)

Alf Halvorson

*HYMN OF RESPONSE

To God Be the Glory

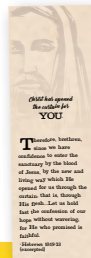
#485; Vs. 1 | TO GOD BE THE GLORY

POSTLUDE

Christ the Lord Is Risen Today

arr. Calvin Hampton (1938-1984)

Musicians in this service: Monica Isomura, Prelude soloist • Charles Hausmann, conductor • Kathryn White, pianist/organist



GOOD FRIDAY BOOKMARKS

At our Good Friday service on April 14, a bookmark was offered to attendees as they exited - we are sorry to say we ran out, though pleased to have had so many in attendance. If you were unable to attend or missed getting a bookmark, stop by the Sanctuary Connection Center this morning to pick one up.

MORE ON MDPC SUNDAY MORNINGS

11:00 AM FIFTH COMMUNITY GROUP: Beginning today, Fifth Service is transforming into Fifth Community. See the announcement in this bulletin for details, or visit fifth.mdpc.org.

VISITORS: If you are visiting MDPC today, we are delighted that you have come to worship with us! Allow us to welcome you personally at the Connection Center located in the Sanctuary Lobby.

INTERESTED IN MEMBERSHIP? For inquiries on how to become a member of MDPC, contact Diann Turet at dturet@mdpc.org and join one of our New Member Classes that run throughout the year.

Starting today: A new Sunday morning experience...

FIFTH Community

11:00 AM* Sundays | Amphitheater

Ask hard questions. Share your story.
Learn and grow in authentic community.

fifth.mdpc.org

*10:45 if you love breakfast tacos.



MDPC PROUDLY WELCOMES GUEST SPEAKER Rear Admiral Margaret Grun Kibben

Thursday, April 27 • 7:00 PM

Spend a faith-building evening with Kibben as she discusses serving Christ and country, her work with Wounded Warriors, and her boundary-breaking career.

kibben.mdpc.org



Poverty SIMULATION

Living life on the edge...how many of us really know what that's like?

Join Spring Branch ISD and IMPACT Mentoring for an interactive experience that will give you a better understanding of the day-to-day struggles of many in our community.

Tuesday, April 25
5:30-7:30 PM at MDPC

Please register: poverty.mdpc.org



safe haven
Adoption and Foster Care Ministry at MDPC

Safe Haven Ministry exists to encourage, educate, and empower foster and adoptive families.

Support Group Meetings • Parent Respite Events
Training Opportunities • Family Camp
Lots of fun activities throughout the year!

To be added to our email list, contact Keri Mosk at kmosk@mdpc.org or 713-490-9265.

Next Evening Support Group: Monday, May 8
Visit safehaven.mdpc.org for details.

"And anyone who welcomes a little child like this on My behalf is welcoming Me."

POWERFUL TOOLS FOR CAREGIVERS

Has being a caregiver left you feeling drained and frustrated? This educational program equips family caregivers with self-care tools to reduce personal stress, communicate more effectively, and deal with difficult caregiving situations.

Wednesdays, May 24-June 28
3:30-5:00 PM at MDPC

Contact Beverly Fluke to register:
bfluke@mdpc.org, 713-490-9542

\$30 fee for program resources. Class size is limited. (No professional caregivers, please.)



Jesus Talks



...with Nicodemus

John 3:1-16 • Alf Halvorson preaching

that Jesus has with all sorts and conditions of people, conversations brief and lengthy, conversations pithy and elaborate, but *conversations*. The conversations develop and accumulate... These are not declamations to a generalized world, but person-to-person conversations. The Lord of language uses language not to 'lord it over' anyone but to engender relationships of grace and love, creating community and bringing it to maturity in prayer."

We start a new series this week. In his book, *Christ Plays in Ten Thousand Places*, Eugene Peterson suggests that you can see and read the Gospel of John as a series of conversations that Christ has with people. Peterson says:

"John's opening sentence, 'In the beginning was the Word...', is elaborated in conversations

1. Read John 3:1-16. Who are the players here? What does Nicodemus say in verse 2? And how does Jesus respond in verse 3 and following? (Note: Most of the second-person pronouns, *you*, are in the plural here, not singular. So Jesus is not talking just to Nicodemus, but to all of us.)
2. Nicodemus asks follow-up questions in verses 4 and 9. What are the questions? How does Jesus try to answer? If you were to summarize this symbolically rich conversation, what would be your one or two sentence summary?
3. Nicodemus is a Pharisee and a member of the Sanhedrin. What do you know about Pharisees and the Sanhedrin? And why do you think Nicodemus comes at night (vs. 2) to see Jesus?
4. Jesus' answers seem to be confusing to Nicodemus, even though he is a teacher (vs. 10). So Jesus gives him an illustration in verses 14 and 15. What do you make of this odd story from Numbers 21:4-9? How does it explain or illuminate Jesus' previous words to Nicodemus?
5. John 3:16 is probably the most familiar and memorized verse in the Bible. How might you read this verse differently after having studied the verses before this profound summary verse?
6. What do you think became of Nicodemus? Read John 7:45-52 and 19:38-42. What can you learn from Nicodemus about following Jesus?

