

## Coming Up at MDPC

### Plan for the Holiday Season

Next Sunday there is one morning service (see cover of this bulletin for more info) and no Sunday School classes will meet. On Dec. 31, we're back to our regular worship schedule (8:30, 9:45, 11:15 AM).

### Mission Market: Final Sunday to Shop

When you purchase Mission Market Christmas cards, 100% of the money you give is sent to the ministry partner of your choice. These partners live out Christ's mission to help the hungry, homeless, and voice-less.

#### This morning in the Sanctuary Lobby

[mission-market.mdpc.org](http://mission-market.mdpc.org)

### Toot! Toot! Toy Train Is Leaving Soon...

MDPC's Mobile Unit works year-round to bring low-income neighborhoods new or lightly used goods for free or very low cost. At Christmastime, it distributes toys to kids on its routes. Please consider bringing a new, unwrapped toy to drop off in the Toy Train.

Collecting toys in the east hallway through Dec. 19

### B90: Read the Bible

Read 12 pages a day starting January 1, and meet once a week for support and encouragement. This could be the best new year's resolution you'll ever make.

Interest Meeting: Sunday, Dec. 17 | 11:15 AM | MC 218

Details: [b90.mdpc.org](http://b90.mdpc.org)

### Young Adults: Bible365

Your challenge: Read the Bible in a year using the Bible app on your phone. Sign up with us to get reminders, and to be notified if/as accountability groups form.

Contact Trevor for details: [tharris@mdpc.org](mailto:tharris@mdpc.org), 713-446-8388 (text or call)

### Married Life Prep

Taught at MDPC by Brett and Kellie Hurst of Home Encouragement, you will learn how to build your marriage upon a firm foundation.

Sundays, January 7-28 | 10:00 AM-12:00 PM

Details and registration: [mlp.mdpc.org](http://mlp.mdpc.org)

### Powerful Tools for Caregivers

Do you care for an older family member or friend? Has it left you feeling drained and frustrated? Come learn tools to take better care of yourself, from reducing stress to communicating effectively and more.

Wednesdays, Jan 10-Feb 14 | 3:30-5:00 PM

\$30 registration fee for program resources.

Class size is limited. No professional caregivers, please.

Registration: [tools.mdpc.org](http://tools.mdpc.org)

### Treats For Your Feast

Order your pies, cookies, and breads by tomorrow, Dec. 18, and pick up Dec. 19-21.

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

### Register Now for Spring REACH Classes

Spring offerings include art, dance, music, and sports classes for both children and adults.

For a complete list of classes and to register, call the REACH office at 713-490-9564 or visit [reach.mdpc.org](http://reach.mdpc.org).

### Join Pastor Alf as a Partner In Prayer

Through MDPC's Partners In Prayer program, thousands of people are prayed for every day. God uses the power of this quiet ministry to bring health, life, and peace to our church family.

Online registration is open at [pip.mdpc.org](http://pip.mdpc.org).

### Your Covenant with God

Your 2018 pledge conveniently can be made online. Visit the link below where you'll find a form to give, and spiritual resources to help with your decision.

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

### Confirmation 2018

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

Kick-off: Sunday Evening, January 7

Details and registration: [confirmation.mdpc.org](http://confirmation.mdpc.org)

### Business Advisers Needed

MDPC ministry partner Newspring focuses on economic development in Spring Branch. Its business plan competition trains contestants in business planning. We need advisers for the 11-week competition.

If you are interested in applying your business skills as part of your Christian witness, contact Robert Westheimer at [rwestheimer1@comcast.net](mailto:rwestheimer1@comcast.net).

### ALPHA

Alpha is a series of interactive sessions to explore Christian faith. Alpha is for everyone. Come Alpha.

Launch Party: Tuesday, January 23

More information: [alpha.mdpc.org](http://alpha.mdpc.org)

### Sacred Rhythms

We believe that there is an eagerness, a longing, a thirst within each of us to deepen our spiritual journey with God. Join us as we pay attention to the ways God is moving in our lives...

Sundays at 9:45 or Wednesdays at 11:45

Jan. 7-Feb. 14 | More info: [sacred.mdpc.org](http://sacred.mdpc.org)

Sunday, December 17, 2017



# CHRISTMAS PLAYLIST

## MARY, DID YOU KNOW?

Luke 1:26-38

8:30 AM BLENDED • 9:45 AM CONTEMPORARY

### WELCOME

Dave Steane (8:30), Worship Team (9:45)

### CALL TO WORSHIP AND LIGHTING OF ADVENT WREATH

Phipps Family (8:30), Nelson Family (9:45)

### \*SONGS OF PRAISE

### \*PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE

Christyn Knoop (8:30), Laura Miller (9:45)

### NEW MEMBERS (9:45)

### SONG OF RESPONSE

### GIFTS OF GRATITUDE

### DRAMA

Allison Delgado and Kyle Goodson

### MESSAGE

Christmas Playlist: "Mary, Did You Know?"

Alf Halvorson

### RESPONSE OF THE PEOPLE

Musicians in these services: Meliza Gómez and Michael Middleton, worship leaders • Joe Gavito, guitar • Craig Gysler, keys • Asher Pudlo, drums • Dennis Whittaker bass

## 11:15 AM TRADITIONAL

### PRELUDE

When Love Was Born

Mark Schultz (b. 1970)

### WELCOME

Dave Steane

### CALL TO WORSHIP AND LIGHTING OF ADVENT WREATH

Adair Family

### CHORAL INTROIT

Comfort, Comfort

arr. Joseph Martin (b. 1959)

### \*HYMN OF PRAISE

Angels from the Realms of Glory

#22; Vs. 1, 2, 4 | REGENT SQUARE

### \*PRAYER OF CONFESSION & ASSURANCE

Amy Delgado

### \*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH from Romans 8

### \*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

Angels We Have Heard on High

#23; Vs. 3 | GLORIA

### ANTHEM

African Alleluia

Benjamin Harlan

### NEW MEMBERS

### OFFERTORY

Mary, Did You Know?

arr. Bruce Greer (b.1961)

### DRAMA

Allison Delgado and Kyle Goodson

### MESSAGE

Christmas Playlist: "Mary, Did You Know?"

Alf Halvorson

### HYMN OF RESPONSE

O Little Town of Bethlehem

#44; Vs. 1, 2 | ST. LOUIS

### POSTLUDE

Shepherd's Noel

J. Wayne Kerr (b. 1957)

Musicians in this service: Jason Amos, soloist • Charles Hausmann, conductor • Julio and Sheryl Sanchez, percussionists • Kathryn White, pianist/organist

\*Please stand if able.

**MDPC Concert Series**  
2017-2018

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

Enjoy a festive night of timeless Christmas carols and Puccini's *Messa di Gloria*.  
Tonight at 6:00 PM • Free Admission



Loving God. Proclaiming Christ. Living Generously. Engaging All.  
11612 Memorial Drive | Houston, Texas 77024 | [mdpc.org](http://mdpc.org) | 713-782-1710

## Christmas Eve

Sunday, December 24

Christmas Eve is on a Sunday this year, so we will celebrate in the morning, and again in the evening with a new message:  
10:00 AM Blended Worship  
4:00 PM Family | 5:30, 7:00, & 8:30 PM Candlelight  
Details: [christmaseve.mdpc.org](http://christmaseve.mdpc.org)



# MDPC NEW MEMBERS

Today we are so happy to introduce these 12 new members of the MDPC family! Learn a little more about each in the brief bios below, and join us in warmly welcoming them to MDPC.



**Maribel Alvarez** is a legal assistant. She is engaged to be married in 2018. She enjoys fishing, reading, and yoga.



**Nicole Cunningham** is the wife of MDPC member Justin Cunningham. They have a daughter, Kinley (1). Nicole is human resources manager for CARBO.



**Don and Shannon Vrba** are the parents of new members Chandler (17) and Darby (15). Don is a concept leader for Pappas Brothers Steakhouse. He enjoys golf, home projects, dining out, and watching sporting events. Shannon is a political event planner. She enjoys exercising. They both love watching their girls play tennis.



**Chandler Vrba** (17) is a senior at Lamar High School. She has committed to play tennis at Southwestern University. When she isn't playing tennis, she likes hanging out with friends and loves to travel.



**Darby Vrba** (15) is a sophomore at Lamar High School. She plays on the varsity tennis team and loves to do R&D at new restaurants with her dad.



**Andrew Walker** is the son of Sean and Bethany Walker. He is a junior at Stratford High School and spent 11 years living with his parents and sister overseas before moving back to the United States in June and to Houston in August. He enjoys theater and running cross country, and is active in Youth Connections at MDPC.



**Bethany Walker** is the wife of Rev. Sean Walker. They have two children, new member Andrew (16), and Julia (13). Bethany is an educator. She and her husband and children served as missionaries in Central Asia for over 11 years.



**Vivian and Malcolm Wooley** have three adult children and seven grandchildren. Malcolm is an investment advisor representative for Lincoln Financial Advisors. He enjoys hiking, reading, tennis, and traveling. Vivian is a retired teacher and homemaker. She enjoys reading and traveling.



**Jose Wu and Katherine Nguyen** are the parents of Sophia (3). Jose is a dentist. He enjoys fishing, the outdoors, and spending time with his family. Katherine is a stay-at-home mom. She enjoys nutrition, health, cooking, and crafting.



## New Member Service Day at THE AMAZING PLACE

New Member Classes end with a Saturday spent serving in the community. This time, they helped decorate The Amazing Place for Christmas! The Amazing Place is a wonderful, long-time ministry partner of MDPC. Its mission is to provide fellowship, memory care, and wellness for adults with mild to moderate memory loss and support to their families and the community.



## IS IT TIME FOR YOU TO JOIN MDPC?

### DISCOVER MDPC WITH ALF

Want to know more about MDPC? Thinking about membership? This info meeting is about who we are and how we operate, within our walls and out in the world. No commitment required! Learn what it means to be part of our faith community.

**Sunday, January 21 | 10:45-11:10 AM | Gathering Room**

### NEXT NEW MEMBER CLASS INTENSIVE

If you are interested in membership, or in becoming a Christian, any of our pastors would love to meet you and discuss your questions! Taught by our Pastors and Elders, the class includes an outreach service project. February's New Member Class is a special one-evening and one-morning intensive that covers the same material as the four-Sunday series.

**Friday, Feb. 2, 6:30-9:00 PM; and Saturday, Feb. 3, 9:00 AM-Noon | Parlor**

Visit [membership.mdpc.org](http://membership.mdpc.org) to register for the New Member Intensive.

## PRAY WITH US: MDPC MINISTRY PARTNERS

This week, please pray for these partners MDPC assists with your support:

**Westside Homeless Prevention** is a two-stage housing initiative in Spring Branch for homeless families with children. Through financial support and comprehensive services, clients receive education and counseling needed to achieve self-sufficiency and permanent housing.

[westsidehomeless.org](http://westsidehomeless.org)

**The Women's Home** offers an 18-month residential program that helps women build the skills and self-confidence necessary to overcome mental illness and addiction and achieve self-sufficiency. The program is divided into three phases, each providing the support a woman needs to heal.

[thewomenshome.org](http://thewomenshome.org)

**Women's Pregnancy Center** reaches out to meet the physical, emotional, and spiritual needs of pregnant women and their families. The Center fosters the truth of Jesus Christ in their lives by teaching biblical principles, redeeming lost hope, unifying families, and healing wounded hearts.

[wpc-houston.com](http://wpc-houston.com)

## THE WHITE ROSE IS IN MEMORY OF

MDPC member George Carnahan, who passed away December 1, 2017.

### WEEKLY FINANCIAL UPDATE

2017 Operating Budget	\$ 11,400,000
Expected Income to Date	\$ 9,136,229
Actual Income to Date (12/10/17)	\$ 8,585,517
Current Income Deficit	\$ 550,712
Needed to Meet 2017 Budget	\$ 2,814,483
Hurricane Harvey Relief Fund	\$ 762,689



MDPC

COME HOME FOR CHRISTMAS.

Christmas Eve Services at 4:00, 5:30, 7:00, and 8:30 PM

**I**t's been a difficult year for Houston. We've seen first-hand the havoc that Harvey wreaked on our city, but we've also seen the amazing resilience of the survivors and the incredible spirit of Houstonians, with neighbors helping neighbors in ways both large and small.

Times like this teach us the importance of having a supportive community and a faith that brings us through challenging circumstances. If you can't be at *your* home this Christmas, we hope you'll feel at home *here* at MDPC. Whether you were directly affected by the storm or not, we'd love for your family to join ours for a Christmas Eve celebration of home and Hope.

**10:00 AM**

Our regular Sunday worship will consist of ONE 10:00 AM blended service.

**4:00 PM**

A fun and interactive contemporary service for all ages - perfect for kids and families

**5:30, 7:00, & 8:30 PM**

Beautiful and traditional candlelight services with choir and a brass chamber orchestra

**Christmas Activities**

**3:00-8:45 PM**

Come early or stay late to visit the live nativity animals in the Breezeway and to enjoy a Christmas photo booth, live music, and a taste of hot chocolate and Christmas cookies!



11612 Memorial Drive • Houston, TX 77024

MDPC is located at the corner of Blalock and Memorial.

**[mdpc.org](http://mdpc.org) • 713-782-1710**



## CHRISTMAS PLAYLIST

### MARY, DID YOU KNOW?

Luke 1:26-38

This Sunday, the third in Advent, continues Pastor Alf's sermon series on hymns and Christmas carols that help prepare us for Jesus' birth. Mary, Did You Know? is a haunting song, often sung as a solo or an ensemble piece, that ponders just how much Mary really knew when she said "yes" to the angel Gabriel. We all have dreams for our children when they are born, but they tend to have their own personalities and ideas about their lives and how they will play out.

And often God has plans for them (and us) that we do not anticipate.

1. Read Luke 1:26-38. Mary is waiting to be married. She's betrothed, and waiting for her wedding to occur. Most people loathe waiting. Are you proud or embarrassed by how you wait? Why or why not?
2. During Mary's waiting period, the Angel Gabriel appears and tells her perplexing news. Focus on verses 26-35. What does Gabriel actually say? How does Mary react? What is Gabriel's response to her question?
3. What might you have done and said if you were in Mary's shoes?
4. There is no mention here of Joseph or Mary's parents or her friends. Where are they? Is she all alone?
5. What purpose do verses 36 and 37 serve in this narrative? See also verses 39-45 of Luke 1.
6. In verse 38, Mary responds, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me, according to your word." What does she mean? How would you paraphrase her prayer?
7. I shared a longer story about Louis Zamperini from the book "Unbroken." How is he like and unlike Mary? Mary and Louis say "yes" to God's call on their lives. What is (might be) God's call on your life this Christmas and into 2018? Where might you need to pray Mary's prayer today?

