

ADVANTAGE

SCOREBOARD

GOALS

MDPC

WORSHIP

10% Increase



BIBLE STUDY

5 New Opps

Partner in Prayer FIP 1K

• Mentor: 25

Small Groups: 2X •

Speakers: 4 •

Mission Highlight

2 Causes

Giving Tithing

• 5% Annually

Sunday Serve

• 1X Annually



Technology Launches



MDPC ADVANTAGE GOALS

KNOW • GROW • GO • SOW

At the January 2017 Staff & Elder Retreat, the Session approved the 12 MDPC Advantage Goals, designed to enhance our current mission statement as we strive to broaden our reach for Christ in our community and beyond.

These goals are not merely for the staff and Elders. *We need your help and your involvement to effect these changes.* We ask that each of you review the Advantage Goals, and then pray about how you might participate in the planning and implementation. If there is an area or an idea that appeals to you, and you would like to be a part of that work group, please contact the point person indicated.

Work is progressing on each of the 12 Goals – committees have been formed, dates and projects chosen, materials developed, and speakers engaged. This brochure includes the three individual goals for each of the four parts of MDPC’s Mission Statement, and progress updates.

Loving God.

We help people to **know** Jesus.

1 WORSHIP: Glorify God by increasing worship participation by **10%** annually for five years.

POINT PERSON: Alf Halvorson (ahalvorson@mdpc.org)

This committee is working on a multi-pronged approach to be unveiled in the fall of 2017. Already being implemented are plans to increase the visibility of children, youth, and young adults in Sunday services, particularly at the 9:45 Contemporary Service. This year, The Music Box Kids' Choir helped lead worship several times, and youth and young adults have participated in many different facets of worship, including music, collection of the Offering, reading Scripture, and leading the Prayer of Confession.

2 BIBLE STUDY: Treasure God's Word in our hearts by adding **5** strategic, deep **BIBLE STUDY** opps for under-represented groups.

POINT PERSON: Martha Moore (marthamoore@mdpc.org)

Bible study opportunities launching this summer and fall:

1. **Live Justly** facilitated by Gena Etherton: An in-depth scriptural and practical 10-week study to help people *live justly* in 6 key areas of life: Advocacy, Prayer, Consumption, Generosity, Creation Care, and Relationships.
2. **Life Groups** (tentative name) facilitated by Jane and Bart Henson: A school-year-long, multi-generational Bible study and small group focusing on making disciples. Begins this summer with a book study on *DiscipleShift*.
3. **Sacred Rhythms** (tentative name) facilitated by Martha Moore and Jeanmarie Tade: A 10-week study of spiritual practices that open us to God's transforming love using *Sacred Rhythms* by Ruth Haley Barton.
4. **New Young Married Class:** A collaborative effort between Equipping, Relationships, and Young Adult Ministries.
5. Several ideas under consideration including an **After Alpha** opportunity, a **Scripture Memory** class, **How To 101** (how to grow in faith, how to pray, how to love neighbor, how to use spiritual gifts)...stay tuned!

3 PRAYER: Increase Partner In Prayer participation to **1,000+** people.

POINT PERSON: Rick Myers (rmyers@mdpc.org)

Caring Ministries continues to invite new and current members to become a Partner In Prayer. Sign-up is and will continue to be available at the Connection Center each Sunday.

Proclaiming Christ.

We help people to **grow** together in Jesus.

1 MENTOR: Intentionally **MENTOR 25** new key servant-leaders annually.

POINT PERSON: Brett Hurst (bhurst@mdpc.org)

Partners in Leadership, MDPC's mentoring initiative, already is more than halfway to its initial projected goal. To find out how to become part of a leadership pairing process, visit partnersinleadership.mdpc.org.

2 SMALL GROUPS: DOUBLE small groups meaningfully connected in fellowship.

POINT PERSON: Jeanmarie Tade (jtade@mdpc.org)

Equipping Ministries is working with Young Adults, Relationships, and Youth to determine a baseline number of individuals currently involved in small groups. This will be completed in summer 2017. Participants will be identified for a multi-generational lay-leader and church-staff committee.

Small group initiatives at other churches (Grace Presbyterian, Kingwood Presbyterian, Christ Evangelical) are being researched.

This summer (June/July) a Wednesday night group of interested individuals will study *DiscipleShift* by Jim Putman, Bob Harrington, and Robert Coleman.

The target is for at least two small-group initiatives in the fall of 2017:

1. a congregation-wide book study or Bible study and
2. one or more small groups based on *DiscipleShift*.

3 SPEAKER SERIES: Bring in **4 HIGH-PROFILE SPEAKERS** annually to inspire and integrate faith and life.

POINT PERSON: Alf Halvorson (ahalvorson@mdpc.org)

1. January 2017: Shortly before the Super Bowl, MDPC hosted Hall of Famer Bruce Matthews, who spoke about his career, family, and faith.
2. April 2017: An overflow crowd in the Chapel enjoyed hearing from the winsome Admiral Margaret Kibben.
3. June 2017: Dr. Adam Winn of Fuller Theological Seminary concluded our Wednesday Night Study series, *Heartbreaks, Hopes, & Heroes*.
4. MDPC recently booked nationally-acclaimed author Eric Metaxas for Tuesday, October 10. Metaxas is best known for his biography of Dietrich Bonhoeffer.

A task force is being assembled of church members who have interest or influence in helping shape this initiative, and to work on identifying and booking future speakers.

Living Generously.

We help people to **go** serve because of Jesus.

- 1 OUTREACH INITIATIVES:** Highlight **1-2 MISSION THEMES** or emphases annually to “rally” congregational engagement.

POINT PERSON: Amy Delgado (adelgado@mdpc.org)

Children’s Hunger: In the Houston region, the percentage of food insecure children last year increased from 24.7% to 26%. Food insecurity in this young population is on the rise, and statistics show that nutrition plays the most critical role in brain development in ages 3 and under. MDPC’s Children’s Hunger Team has been meeting since mid-March to develop a strategy for engaging the congregation in hunger relief efforts in Houston, with a special consideration for children/families. Meetings with agencies and key players in the hunger arena have taken place as the team works to solidify the strategy and activities for this initiative. Plans are being made for this fall to launch volunteer opportunities and other ways to engage in our community.

Human Trafficking: Houston is a known hub of domestic and international human trafficking. MDPC’s Human Trafficking Team members are working to educate themselves on the current situation of our city, gather information on counter-trafficking efforts, meet with agencies, and develop a strategy for MDPC to engage our members and our community, and with God’s help, to effect change. The team recently took a bus tour to observe trafficking “businesses” not far from the church. The team is looking forward to launching efforts later in the year related to education and awareness, legislative and community engagement, and volunteering with anti-trafficking non-profits.

- 2 INCREASE GIVING:** Increase pledgers and those committed to percentage **GIVING/TITHING BY 5%** annually.

POINT PERSON: Dave Steane (dsteane@mdpc.org)

The 2018 Generosity Committee is meeting monthly. In addition to developing the 2018 campaign, committee members are looking at a variety of ways to positively affect giving and tithing. You can join this effort as an “at-large” committee member.

- 3 SUNDAY SERVE: ONE** Sunday annually, **WORSHIP BY SERVING** in our community, side by side with partners and friends.

POINT PERSON: Rachel Poysky (rpoysky@mdpc.org)

The team has just begun meeting, and has designated Sunday, February 25, 2018 for an All-Church Serve Sunday. The team is studying a variety of options and ministry partners where the congregation might serve on that day. Contact Rachel to add *your* voice!

Engaging All.

We help people to **sow** seeds of hospitality and engagement, inter-culturally and generationally.

- 1 HOSPITALITY:** Create a **HOSPITALITY DEPARTMENT** to increase evangelism and congregational involvement and buy-in. Goal of **5 BELIEVER BAPTISMS** annually.

POINT PERSON: Dave Steane (dsteane@mdpc.org)

This committee is close to finishing the job description, reporting structure, and duties of a Hospitality Director. The position is expected to be filled in 2018 when funds are available.

- 2 YOUNG ADULTS & CULTURAL DIVERSITY: 2% INCREASE** annually of new connections for the Gospel with **YOUNG ADULTS** and **INTER-CULTURALLY**, so that MDPC will more accurately reflect Houston's diversity.

POINT PERSONS: Christyn Knoop (cknoop@mdpc.org)
Mauricio Chacón (mchacon@mdpc.org)

Young Adults: MDPC made a strategic investment in the future of Young Adult ministry by building out the team, which now includes Christyn Knoop (Young Adult Director), Sarah Stone (Young Adult Outreach Director), and Trevor Harris (Young Adult Discipleship Director). They are hard at work setting up lunches, coffees, and happy hours with young adults, as well as organizing pub trivia events, Theology On Tap, kickball, Bible studies, service projects, MOPS, new small groups/married life groups, and guys/girls nights as ways to meet, encourage, and build up the faith of MDPC's young adults and their friends.

One of the key values the team seeks to build into every element of the ministry is an "outreach mentality." They are "doing church" in a post-Christian society; millennials don't go to church anymore because "it's good for them." Today's unchurched young adults need multiple positive interactions with faithful, intelligent, kind, transformed-by-Jesus Christians before ever darkening the door of a church. For MDPC Young Adult Ministry, this means equipping its more committed members with resources, training, and encouragement to take the gospel into their workplaces, neighborhoods, and social groups. It also means creating a culture of service. This service focus is a way for the ministry to differentiate itself, tap into MDPC's DNA, and meet a desperate desire of millennials: *to lead lives that matter.*

The ministry is busy organizing a leadership team and establishing a baseline number of young adults from which to grow. Here's how you can help:

- If you're a young adult in college through your mid/late-30s, contact Christyn Knoop.
- If you're born before 1980, contact Brett Hurst about becoming a mentor. This is a critical way to invest in and impact the life of a young adult.

Inter-Culturally: Conversations are under way with Fuente, MDPC's Hispanic Ministry, to more fully partner together in ministry. Additionally, MDPC has welcomed a Brazilian congregation into its midst, which worships in the Chapel at 6:00 PM on Sunday evenings.

3 TECHNOLOGY: Responsibly launch **5 NEW TECHNOLOGY/MEDIA** initiatives to reach more people for Christ.

POINT PERSON: Ginny Glass (gglass@mdpc.org)

MDPC Communications and Media has been at work implementing and strategizing new technology initiatives. These range from an interactive prayer wall on the website (will launch in June), to employing Facebook Live to broadcast special events (The Spoken Word and Admiral Kibben's April talk engaged approximately 4,000 online viewers).

Other projects in development are demographic-specific email strategies, use of social media to make Sunday sermons interactive, and "Text to Give." The #MDPCSummer17 campaign invites the congregation to share photos of their summer activities (learn more at hashtag.mdpc.org).

Overall, 11 separate technology/media projects are being explored, so stay tuned!

If you're struggling to decide how to serve, start by taking the Gifts Inventory at spiritualgifts.mdpc.org.

Check serve.mdpc.org for more volunteer opportunities.

Always know you can contact any pastor or staff! He or she would love to hear your story, talk to you about your faith, and help you find ways to be a faithful disciple and servant.



MDPC

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Loving God. Proclaiming Christ. Living Generously. Engaging All.