

Taylor University Women's Softball Team brought Joy, Energy, and Compassion!

by Barbara Mueller

For two weeks in January, the women's softball team and coaches from Taylor University (alma mater of Dan Aikins and Andrew Miller) were in Houston to serve those impacted by Hurricane Harvey.

I was extremely blessed to be in the presence of these women as they worked, removing 80+ bags of debris from six houses in Walnut Bend. They pulled nails, scrubbed studs, vacuumed sheetrock dust, cleaned windows, and scrubbed tile floors, including in the home of a gentleman who had knee replacement surgery the week before Harvey hit and left three feet of water in his house for 12 days.

When it was below freezing and too cold to work in the houses, we went to Houston Food Bank. They packed boxes for senior adults and cleaned and sorted food items for donations. Their energy helped provide 5,422 meals to those in need.

The team was also completing online courses during their two-week stay, practicing softball at HBU, and playing scrimmages at HBU and UH-Victoria. They even got in some weightlifting by helping Jan Roe (MDPC's Local Outreach Director) move boxes to consolidate the items she was able to rescue from Harvey in her storage unit. And I got a faith lift listening to their prayers in the prayer circle Jan led.


On the last day, the whole team served at Open Door Mission. I had heard about the Mission before, but never knew the extent of its ministry, nor the level of compassion it exhibits. We peeled potatoes, prepped salad, and mixed huge bowls of cornbread, then served the delicious meal to the men at Open Door and joined them to eat. The men were so kind and gracious and the Taylor team treated them with respect and enjoyed getting to know them over lunch. The favorite

event was an impromptu basketball game (following some good-natured smack talk by the men of Open Door) between the residents and the Taylor softball team. The Taylor girls won both games, but everyone had fun. One man said it was the most fun he'd had in several months.

After touring Minute Maid Park, they all came to my home for a house blessing and to sign the studs. There they met one of our neighbors who had become very discouraged with the whole remediation process. He showed the team his house, the yard, and the bayou. They graciously listened as he told his story of how Harvey impacted him and his wife. Of course, God's timing was perfect and we were able to provide compassion to his wife before she left to attend her father's funeral. The team spent a lot of time at his house washing windows, scrubbing floors, and cleaning yard debris. Our neighbor has been telling everyone how wonderful it was to spend time with the team and how much they helped their remediation and lifted their spirits.

Another story of God's timing was how Bonnie Bowser (mom of head coach Brad Bowser) was able to help one of Judy Gordon's neighbors. Kveta had 44 inches of water in her house for 12 days. Her story was similar to most of her neighbors, but she also suffered the sudden death of her husband of 40+ years just three weeks prior to Harvey. Bonnie listened to Kveta and allowed her to share the story of her husband, their marriage, and his sudden death, and also her Harvey story. Bonnie and I were able to pray and share God's love for her. Within a week, Charlie Chaffin and some men from Open Door Mission removed Kveta's tile floor, enabling her to pass her mold test. It's amazing to experience the Church at work!





Monday-Friday, July 9-13
9:30 AM-12:30 PM

MDPC's version of Vacation Bible School is for children who have completed Kindergarten through 5th grade.

Preschool children can attend if a parent volunteers.

The more you volunteer, the more children can attend SC and have a chance to meet Jesus!

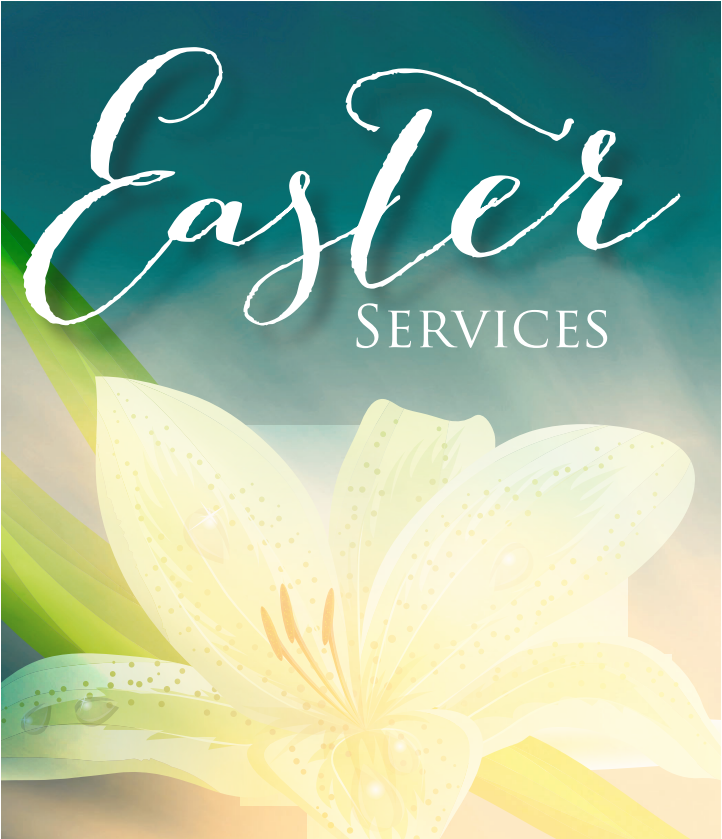
Please sign up to volunteer at summercel.mdpc.org.

Register: summercel.mdpc.org



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April-June 2018



Easter SERVICES


Sunrise Service
7:00 AM • In the Courtyard

Blended Service
8:15 AM • In the Sanctuary

Family Service
9:45 AM • In the Sanctuary

Traditional Service
11:15 AM • In the Sanctuary

Spanish Service
11:15 AM • In the Chapel





Dr. Mark Labberton

President, Fuller Theological Seminary

Thursday, April 26


Mark Labberton's experience includes 30 years of pastoral ministry, 16 of those as senior pastor at First Presbyterian Church of Berkeley, California. He is a popular speaker and the author of three books. Dr. Labberton will speak about trauma and its effect on our lives.

speakers.mdpc.org



THE SPOKEN WORD HEBREWS 4:12

March 26-29 in the MDPC Chapel



Celebrate Holy Week by participating in a continuous cover-to-cover reading of the Bible. Sign up to read aloud for one or more 15-minute spot(s).

Our congregation is diverse, and we encourage everyone to read in their native language.

Register today:
spokenword.mdpc.org
Come to read. Come to listen.

Explore our New Member Classes

This four-week New Member 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, April 8-29
 11:10 AM
 In the Parlor

More info: membership.mdpc.org

A Class for Engaged & Married Couples

The 5 Love Languages #1 NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER

Want to know the secret to a lifetime of love?
 Looking to be in a small group together?
 Ready for a marriage tune-up?

Sundays, April 8-May 13
 11:00 AM | MC 116

A 6-week book study for couples of **ALL ages** sponsored by MDPC's Relationships Ministries.



Details & registration:
fivelove.mdpc.org

THE WELL WOMEN'S SPEAKER SERIES

Join us at The Well, our semi-annual gathering for women of all ages and life stages to commune and connect. Hear a panel of real, honest women talk about how the "roadblocks" they've encountered prepared them for the rest of their lives.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 18
6:30-8:00 PM • CHAPEL
 Light snacks at 6:00 PM in the Parlor.
 Please RSVP: thewell.mdpc.org

AGES 12 & UP ARE WELCOME!
 Childcare available by reservation: childcare.mdpc.org



ROADBLOCKS

JOURNEY to the CROSS

Good Friday, March 30

Register to receive a tour time: journey.mdpc.org

Tours Begin 9:30 AM • Final Tour at 11:00 AM
 Check in outside Fellowship Hall

Preschoolers and parents:
 Come experience Junior Journey to the Cross!

Good Friday, 9:30-11:30 AM
 Come anytime

Contact Alicia Boykin with questions:
aboykin@mdpc.org or 713-490-9261



VIOLENCE
SLAVERY
OPPRESSION OF WOMEN
SACRIFICE

DOES THE OLD TESTAMENT HAVE A DARK SIDE?

SUNDAYS, APRIL 8-29 | 11:00 AM | AMPHITHEATER
DARKSIDE.MDPC.ORG

MDPC Concert Series 2017-2018




Sunday, April 15
 6:00-7:30 PM • Sanctuary

MDPC's Sanctuary Choir, the Prairie View A&M University Choir, and a professional orchestra performing *Chichester Psalms* by Leonard Bernstein in celebration of the 100th Anniversary of the composer's birth, and *Requiem* by Maurice Duruflé.




FREE ADMISSION • The community is invited!


Men's Summer Series:
 Men in Partnership and Discipleship

Tuesdays, June 5-26
 6:30-7:45 AM | Amphitheater

This short summer series is a must for men. You'll learn practical tools and insights on moving closer to Christ, and engage in conversations about discipleship and how to direct your life toward God.

MDPC Relationships Pastor Brett Hurst will lead these sessions encouraging men to go farther in their Christian walks.

Contact Brett Hurst with questions:
bhurst@mdpc.org



MEN'S LIFE