

# SEASONS

MEMORIAL DRIVE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

FALL 2017 • VOL. XLVII NO. 3

*Come Thirsty!*



For God's Word.  
For Community.  
For Service.

**Kickoff Sunday**  
is August 20.  
Come and enjoy a  
refreshing treat!

## THE FIRST DISCIPLES

Pastor Alf's Fall Sermon Series explores what we can learn from how Jesus called and disciplined His own followers. See back page for sermon schedule.

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You already received from me earlier this summer an invitation to update your photos and information in Ministry Platform. Thank you to those of you who have completed this important task. For those who have not, we want to make the process easy—but first, let me give a rationale for this effort.

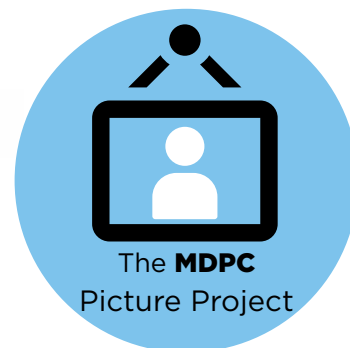
A movie my wife likes is the 1990s classic *You've Got Mail*. The movie is about the owner of a small bookstore that is being put out of business by a super-sized bookstore chain (which is ironic because in the intervening years large chain bookstores have been under attack by Amazon and other online services). In one memorable email exchange between the two main characters, Tom Hanks (the owner of Fox Books) explains to Meg Ryan (the owner of the small neighborhood children's bookstore, The Shop Around The Corner) that the conflict between them is not personal. Meg Ryan strongly disagrees and her response concludes with the following: "And what's so wrong with being personal, anyway? Whatever else anything is, it ought to begin by being personal."

Our faith in Christ and with each other here at MDPC is personal. Psalm 42:7a says, "Deep calls to deep." MDPC provides for all of us a mechanism to go deep with God, with each other, and in service to the world. There is a yearning we have to connect on more than a surface level. Here, we ultimately are after real community, not just activity; heartfelt worship, spiritual growth, and transformational mission, not simply membership.

Updated information can facilitate that yearning we have to connect with each other so that collaborative ministry and mission can flourish. Look for specific instructions around Kickoff Sunday and beyond to get your picture taken and your information updated (if needed). We will make it easy for you by having stations before or after worship services and Sunday School Classes.

Again, thanks for your help.

Rev. Dr. Alf Halvorson  
Senior Pastor



## Let Your Faith Take Flight!

by Martha Moore, Teacher-in-Residence

Many have returned from summer travels with family and friends where new discoveries were made, horizons expanded, boundaries challenged, and limits tested. When we return home from our journeys, we find we are not who we were when we left. We've experienced new thrills, survived harrowing situations (like the breakfast buffet at that only motel left with a vacancy), and learned new ways to live our old lives...

Just because it's fall doesn't mean the journey has to stop. Trade in your dusty backpack, your fold-up-and-stuff-anywhere hat, and your *Europe On \$5 A Day* guidebook for a fresh cup of coffee, your trusty Bible, and a group of people eager to discover new ways God wants us to live our old lives.

Whether joining a Bible class that's been meeting for years or trying out a new group, God is inviting all of us to expand our biblical horizons, test our spiritual limits, and discover new truths about what a life with our ever-amazing God is like.

As you flip through the pages of this issue of *Seasons*, ask God to show you where your faith might flourish.

Perhaps it's in **Live Justly**, a new Sunday class facilitated by Gina Etherton. During this eight-week study, participants will be challenged to develop a theology and a personal lifestyle based on Micah 6:8 – "He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God." Each week,

you'll delve into an in-depth scriptural and practical study to help you live justly in 6 key areas of life: Advocacy, Prayer, Consumption, Generosity, Creation Care, and Relationships. Brief video clips, short teachings, group discussion, and personal journal times are designed to create a culture and community among participants that enables honest, convicting discussion about daily justice living. The course is not to reduce justice to an activity, but to develop it as a lifestyle. **Live Justly begins Sunday, September 17 at 11:00 in Room 218.** Live Justly is like going on a mission trip without ever packing a suitcase. Join us and learn how to develop a personal action plan to live each day in a way that infuses our everyday actions with justice.

Recently married? Looking for other young marrieds in their 20s and 30s to walk through this uncharted territory of marriage and commitment? Eager to put into practice foundational biblical truths that will build a happily-ever-after and not a grit-your-teeth-and-endure-it marriage? **The Crazy Cycle** is a four-week small group

designed to help couples stop doing the crazy, hurtful, frustrating things that tear down rather than build up a strong and healthy marriage. A short video by Dr. Emerson Eggerichs that combines biblical instruction with scientific expertise, paired with robust discussion, provides insight into the unique ways in which God has designed both men and women and how we can embrace our differences in marriage, giving us freedom to love and respect each other well. Hosted by Christyn and Alex Knoop at their home in the Heights, with guest couples coming each week to lead discussion and share from their 20+ years of marriage experience!

**The Crazy Cycle is every Tuesday, 7:00 to 8:30 PM, September 12 to October 3.** Email Christyn (cknoop@mdpc.org) for directions.

So be a daredevil! Buckle those seatbelts, put up your tray table, stow that insipid in-flight magazine, and get ready to embark on your next adventure. Life with God is wonder-filled, fraught with challenges, but oh so amazing. Don't miss your flight! We're boarding now...



young adults. life together.

By Christyn Knoop  
Young Adult Director

One of the interesting things about having college ten years in the rear-view mirror is seeing how my friends' lives, and my own, have turned out...well, as "turned out" as we can be in our early thirties. Many of the friends with whom Alex and I shared profound church and missional experiences have remained faithful in their pursuit of God. They continue to serve as inspiring role models for us in how they raise their kids, spend their time and money, serve in their church and community, and cultivate character. By contrast—and there's no real delicate way to say this—other friends seem to have lost their way. Their lives are filled with projects and busy-ness and "moving up" in the world, but church, serving, Christian community, Bible study, and prayer have fallen by the wayside. For some, it was because they moved to a new city and never really plugged into a church. For others, brunch and museums, traveling, and sleeping in became more attractive weekend options. I get it. And yet it makes me sad that we don't connect with Christ at the center of our friendship anymore, and that my friends are missing out on something so life-giving, and good, and true.

At every stage in our lives, there will be a cost to making Jesus a priority, and to cultivating friendships that push us toward a life of knowing, trusting, and serving Him. The company we keep has a profound impact on the people we are becoming. How are your 20s shaping up? What about your 30s? Are you making Christian community and spiritual growth a part of your story? Are you learning, growing, leading, or serving at church even if it's messy and imperfect, and sometimes inconvenient? Are you becoming the kind of person your Creator knows you can be? Sure, these are tough questions to ask, but I know for me, these soul-searching questions are the starting point for God to do something meaningful and beautiful in and through me...and you, too.



## LET'S SERVE!

**Saturday, August 26, 1:00-4:00 PM**  
**Houston Food Bank**  
(Portwall: Main Warehouse)

MDPC is passionate about ending children's hunger. Join other 20s and 30s for a morning of sorting, boxing, and preparing food for local distribution. Stick around and join us for dinner afterwards!

RSVP by August 22 to Trevor:  
**tharris@mdpc.org**

## WELCOME, TREVOR HARRIS!

On May 1, Trevor Harris joined the staff of MDPC as the Young Adult Discipleship Director. Trevor brings a deep sense of passion and call to minister to young adults. He's also a beloved friend to many in the young adult community. This summer, Trevor has been especially focused on building up our college ministry program, cultivating a culture of service within our Young Adult Ministry, and helping our younger adults find spiritual/professional/life mentors. Please welcome and encourage Trevor in his new role!

## COMING SOON...MORE SPORTS

Stay tuned for upcoming info on our fall sports team.



## COMMUNITY GROUPS

### Young Professionals of MDPC

**Tuesdays, 7:00 PM | Member Home (Walnut Bend)**

Dinner, Bible study, trivia, life stories, movie nights, turtle races, friendship, and laughs. All 20s are welcome!

Trevor Harris: tharris@mdpc.org

### Women's Dinner and Discussion Group

**Tuesdays, 6:30-8:00 PM | Member Home (Heights)**

This group for women in their 20s and 30s meets every other Tuesday for delicious, homemade meals and practical conversations about the Christian life.

Sarah Stone: sstone@mdpc.org, 832-605-8129 (text or call)

### Life 2.0

**Sundays, 11:15 AM | MDPC Room 122 (free childcare!)**

This laid-back group of couples in their 20s and 30s studies topics related to the Bible and marriage. Some have started families and others are just enjoying being married. All love spending time together in God's Word on Sunday mornings, and getting together for socials and laughs.

Lori & Bobby Zabor: lori.zabor@gmail.com

### Fifth Community

**Sundays, 11:00 AM | Amphitheater**

Everyone is invited to this intergenerational Sunday morning community where we study the Bible, ask questions, take communion, and share our stories.

Sarah Stone: sstone@mdpc.org, 832-605-8129 (text or call)

### The Parish

**Sundays, 11:00 AM-12:00 PM | Caring Ministries Conference Room**

A Sunday morning small group dedicated to growing together in our understanding of God and His purposes for our lives. Open to all young adults!

Ellie Tendall: etendall@gmail.com

## SPECIAL EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

### Class for Young Marrieds

**Tuesdays, September 12-October 3, 7:00 PM (Heights)**

The Crazy Cycle (see page 1 for more details)

**Register: mdpc.org**

## CONTACT INFO

Send one of us a text or email to be added to the list.

**Christyn Knoop** • Young Adult Ministry Director  
cknoop@mdpc.org; 281-734-0914

**Trevor Harris** • Young Adult Discipleship Director  
tharris@mdpc.org; 713-446-8388

**Sarah Stone** • Young Adult Outreach Director  
sstone@mdpc.org; 832-605-8129

**EVERY. THING.** The places where you can see and be seen by other MDPC Young Adults. Contact the person in ( ) for more info.

- |                    |   |
|--------------------|---|
| Tues, Aug 1        | Tuesday Night YA Bible Studies in the Heights (Sarah)   |
| Mon, Aug 7         | Apologetics August – Nabeel Qureshi (Sarah)   |
| Tues, Aug 8        | Tuesday Night YA Bible Studies in the Heights (Trevor)  |
| Fri, Aug 11        | Salsa Dancing! (Sarah)  |
| Sun, Aug 20        | Team Living Water meeting at MDPC: Run with us! (Trevor)  |
| Tues, Aug 15       | Multi-Church Theology On Tap: Post-Modern "Truth" (Sarah)   |
| Mon, Aug 21        | MDPC's Theology On Tap (Sarah)  |
| Tues, Aug 22       | Tuesday Night YA Bible Studies in the Heights (Sarah)   |
| Thurs, Aug 24      | Conversations (Sarah)   |
| Sat, Aug 26        | Serve at Houston Food Bank, 1:00-4:00 PM + dinner (Trevor)  |
| Mon, Aug 28        | Apologetics August – Jim Tour (Sarah)   |
| Tues, Aug 29       | Men's Life Kick-Off: Cheeseburger in Paradise (Trevor)  |
| Thurs, Sept 9      | Mothers of Preschoolers (MOPS) starts @ MDPC (Christyn)   |
| Tues, Sept 12      | Men's Life begins on Tuesday mornings (Trevor)  |
| Tues, Sept 12      | The Crazy Cycle class for young marrieds kicks off (Christyn)   |
| Sun, Sep 24        | "Is the Bible Trustworthy?" • Pt. I (Sarah)   |
| Sat, Sept 30       | Coach to Cure fundraiser @ No Label Brewery in Katy – \$25 for all-you-can eat food trucks, beer, and live music (Christyn) |
| Sun, Oct 1         | "Is the Bible Trustworthy?" • Pt. II (Sarah)  |
| Wed, Oct 18        | The Well Speaker Series: ladies only! (Christyn)  |
| Tues, Oct 10       | Guest Speaker at MDPC: Eric Metaxas (Christyn)  |
| Tues, Oct 17       | Multi-Church Theology On Tap: "Faith & Politics" (Sarah)  |
| Sat-Sun, Oct 21-22 | MDPC Marriage Retreat (Christyn)  |



# Making Presbyterians Evangelists Again

by Dan Aikins, MDPC's Alpha Hub Director



Alpha

"A Presbyterian will invite someone to faith or to church once every 25 years."

Pastor Alf shared this statistic during a sermon this summer. At first, it struck me as funny; Presbyterians are really living up to our "frozen chosen" moniker! Once the humor faded, though, I was left with a different feeling. We are treating Jesus like a trade secret when we should be shouting about Him from the rooftops. We Presbyterians need some help in the evangelism department.

Alpha is a program coming to MDPC that will help us share our faith. It's all about introducing people to Jesus by encouraging conversations about life's biggest questions in an open and gracious environment. There are no memorized gospel presentations, no tracts, no confrontational questions, no street ministry. Just conversation. It sounds simple because it is!

The 10-week course is built around food and conversation. It begins with a free dinner where guests, Alpha hosts, and volunteers all get to know one another. Then everyone gathers to watch a 20- to 30-minute video that presents the Christian point of view on a certain question of life, such as "Is there more to life than this?" or "How does God guide us?"

After the video, table groups of 10 to 12 people talk openly about what they just watched. The Christian leaders in each group are host-facilitators rather than teacher-experts. While the video shares the Christian point of view, table group discussions are for everyone else to share what they think and believe.

These conversations are the meat and potatoes of Alpha. People rarely are invited to have open and honest spiritual conversations. Simply giving them the opportunity to do so in a safe environment provides space for the Holy Spirit to move in their lives and to turn them toward Jesus. And it works. Many thousands of people around the world have come to know Jesus because of Alpha.

## First Steps for Alpha at MDPC

We are gearing up to launch Alpha in the spring of 2018. As Alpha gets started at MDPC, we need you to share your spiritual gifts and skills. Here are some ways that you can get involved:

- Learn more about Alpha. Scan the QR codes below or visit the links to watch Alpha testimonies, a two-minute introduction, or the first episode of the Alpha film series.
- Join the prayer team!
- Be a table group host or helper who facilitates table group discussion. We are looking for people with the gift of hospitality, and who love making others feel comfortable.
- Help with the behind-the-scenes details! Organize food, manage registration details, decorate a room to make it feel inviting, or help plan the retreat.
- Think of two people you know who need to be at Alpha. Start praying for them daily right now, then invite them to come with you when Alpha launches.

You're officially invited! Join the adventure of partnering with the Holy Spirit to change people's lives forever.

## To Learn More or to Get Involved...

Contact Dan Aikins at [daikins@mdpc.org](mailto:daikins@mdpc.org) or 713-490-9292.



Scan QR Code or visit [goo.gl/MsZ4DK](http://goo.gl/MsZ4DK) to see a 2-minute introduction to Alpha.



Scan QR Code or visit [goo.gl/dBZyYK](http://goo.gl/dBZyYK) to view the first episode of the Alpha Film Series.



Scan QR Code or visit [goo.gl/kXX5Zk](http://goo.gl/kXX5Zk) to watch stories of how people came to trust Jesus through Alpha.



## More Than Music

By Dr. Morgan Menzie

As a young adult just getting out of eight long years in higher education, I was looking for a way to plug in to my old hobbies that I didn't have time for during college and veterinary school. I loved choir in high school and have always felt a spiritual connection with the hymns and anthems of the traditional service, so I decided to come to a couple of Wednesday night rehearsals and try my hand at the music.

The members of the choir were extremely welcoming and interested in getting to know me. My mom had previously participated in the choir and they would often ask about my family. A few of the members even brought their pets to see me at the veterinary practice where I work! At first I found the music challenging, especially because it had been eight years since I had sight read a piece of music, but the more I stuck with it, the more my previous skills returned.

As a young adult, I'm involved in a number of other activities at MDPC, like Theology On Tap and a small group. Luckily, most young adult activities are on Mondays and Tuesdays, so Wednesday choir rehearsal fit easily into my schedule! I love that I am able to interact with so many different people in the church by being involved in a variety of activities.

The best part of choir is getting to be part of a group, to raise our voices together to bring glory to God, and to lead the congregation in worship. I truly believe music touches people's lives and hearts and I feel the Holy Spirit in the room and within me when I sing. If you are interested in being a part of something really special, consider joining us in the MDPC Sanctuary Choir—no matter your age!

For more information on the Sanctuary Choir, contact Tracy Stidam at [tstidam@mdpc.org](mailto:tstidam@mdpc.org) or 713 490 0946.

See back page calendar for a schedule of the 2017-18 season of choir concerts.



# Child Hunger & Food Insecurity

How MDPC's New Initiative Fights Both

Hunger and food insecurity are two separate but related issues. HUNGER is a physiological condition resulting from inadequate food intake. FOOD INSECURITY is a psychological condition resulting from uncertainty about the availability of adequate nutritious food. Both of these conditions can be devastating to the development of young children, particularly if the food insecurity leads to actual hunger.

The absence of good nutrition in children is detrimental to both physical and psychological development and well-being. Studies have shown that **90% of brain development occurs before the age of five**. Young children who have been deprived of adequate nutrition suffer from poor academic performance, behavioral problems, and more health issues than children who have received proper nutrition in their early years. Addressing the problem of child hunger and food insecurity is essential to providing them the opportunity to reach their full potential, and to helping lift future generations out of the cycle of poverty.

**THE HOUSTON/HARRIS COUNTY SITUATION** According to a comprehensive study by Feeding America and Houston Food Bank, 26.1% of youth struggle with food insecurity (limited and uncertain access to adequate food and nutrition) in the 18-county, greater-Houston area covered by Houston Food Bank. The study showed that there were over 300,000 children in Harris County struggling with hunger. It is estimated that 38% of Houston's children under age five are living in poverty, which puts them at risk of food insecurity. To steal a line from the film Apollo 13: "Houston, we have a problem."

**WHAT IS BEING DONE?** There are many agencies in Houston attempting to address hunger and food insecurity, but this is a complex problem with roots buried in a broad range of other issues, including economic, social, cultural, and demographic. The future of the world lies in our children, so, to the extent we can give them a chance to succeed, the world will be a better place. That is why the work of these agencies – such as Houston Food Bank, Kids' Meals, LIFE Houston, and countless food pantries – is so critical.

**WHAT CAN WE DO?** In early 2017, MDPC formed a task force with the objective of making a meaningful impact on childhood food insecurity in Houston. This Children's Hunger Team has been working on a strategy to engage the congregation in hunger relief efforts. This strategy will include many volunteer opportunities and other ways to engage in our community. Can we solve the problem? Remember, "With God, all things are possible."


Child Hunger Initiative  
at MDPC



As part of MDPC's Task Force emphasis on Childhood Hunger, we are holding a one-day food drive for East Spring Branch Food Pantry (ESBFP), one of MDPC's longtime ministry partners. It provides food free of cost to families in urgent need who reside in Spring Branch. Each month, about 500 families totaling 1,300 to 1,800 people receive food. This choice-style pantry looks like a small grocery store, so families can come and "shop" for groceries. The non-profit is 100% run by volunteers, with no salaries paid - they all work for the love of serving! ESBFP received Houston Food Bank's 2015 Bandini Award, which recognizes food pantries that have gone above and beyond, truly setting an example.

On **Sunday, September 3**, MDPC is collecting the following specific items. Special collection boxes will be placed around campus on that Sunday for:

- Canned Soup or Meals (like chili, Chef Boyardee, etc.)
- Canned Corn (a favorite at the Pantry!)
- Canned Fruit
- Canned Diced Tomatoes
- Peanut Butter & Jelly (plastic only)

 **We cannot accept anything homemade, expired, packaged in glass, or that's been opened.**

## Other Sunday Food Drives this Fall

**October 1:** Collection for Fuente Food Pantry

**November 5:** Pick up a bag and instructions for East Spring Branch Food Pantry

**November 12:** Return filled bags to MDPC

**December 3:** Baby formula collections for LIFE

Contact Jan Roe with questions: jroe@mdpc.org or 713-490-9552



Send kids back to school with needed clothes and shoes!

Remember the excitement of back-to-school shopping? For many families, school starting only means more stressful expenses. But, together, we can help parents send their children back to school with confidence!

In late August/early September, MAM provides eligible schools with shopping vouchers redeemable at nearby stores for dress-code clothing items to distribute to the families they have identified as needing assistance. Parents take the shopping voucher and shop for new school clothes with their children, giving them the same shopping experiences as their classmates. In the child's eyes, mom and dad are the heroes. A little goes a long way:

**\$20** A belt, socks, shoes, and underwear

**\$50** A new uniform and a pair of shoes

**\$100** Outfit two children from head to toe!

Your donation of any amount will be appreciated. Look for our table on **Sundays, August 20-September 10** to make your contribution.

Contact Nancy Ennis with questions: nrennis@gmail.com

Registration for fall classes is open! Adults and kids can sign up for Abakadoodle, Art Studio, Ballet, Basketball, Cooking, Strength Training, Dance, Soccer, Mini-Star Sports, Music Together, Piano, Tumbling, Voice, Woodworking, and Yoga.

**REACH FALL 2017**  
Recreation Classes for Kids & Adults

For a complete class list or to register, visit [reach.mdpc.org](http://reach.mdpc.org).





## Sponsored by Caring Ministries

To learn more or to register for one of these opportunities, contact Beverly Fluke at 713-490-9542 or [bfluke@mdpcc.org](mailto:bfluke@mdpcc.org).

## New Stephen Minister Training Begins in September

Has God been nudging you to do more to help people in need? Have you been told by others that you are a good listener? If so, consider becoming a Stephen Minister.

Stephen Ministers are congregation members trained to provide confidential one-to-one Christian care to people going through difficult times. Stephen Ministers typically meet with their care receivers weekly for about an hour. And twice a month they gather with their Stephen Leaders for supervision and continuing education.

Many people become Stephen Ministers as a way to help others who are hurting – but it doesn't take long to discover that God blesses them in amazing ways in return. Here's what one of our current Stephen Ministers had to say:

"All of us go through rough periods in our lives when knowing other people care and feeling God's unconditional love for us is a lifeline to recovery. Stephen Ministry training has prepared me to be present for, to listen to, and to pray with those in need. I



consider it a privilege to be part of the Stephen Ministry Team, to have received the training, and to be given the opportunity to provide Christ centered care to help others embrace God's healing grace in their lives." - Art Gentry

Applications are being accepted through August for the upcoming training class.

### Training dates:

**Tuesdays, September 12-January 30 | 7:00-9:00 PM**

*"Being a Stephen Minister has taught me that people are brave and trusting when they ask for help. Care receivers know their words are confidential, yet are powerful when spoken out loud. We listen as long as it takes and pray to God together for healing or solution to a life event. I've learned through Stephen Ministry we can count on God. And that is a blessing." -Sue Warren*



## Second Family Volunteers Needed

If you have been looking for a practical way to be the hands and feet of Jesus, Second Family ministry may be for you. Volunteers are needed to join care teams that provide support to MDPC members with limited support networks of their own. Assistance offered includes transportation, grocery shopping, and respite care for family caregivers.

## Walking the Mourner's Path

MDPC is once again offering the Christ-centered grief program known as Walking the Mourner's Path. Those who have taken the eight-week series have consistently given positive feedback on how beneficial the homework and group experience were in helping them deal with the loss of a loved one.

If you have lost someone near to you and are struggling with grief recovery, consider enrolling in the fall series. Sessions are led by trained facilitators, and group size is limited to 10 participants to create a safe place for processing feelings.

**Wednesdays, September 6-October 25 | 6:30-8:00 PM**



# You Can Change... ...the life of a child.



Do you have a heart to see students succeed in school, and to 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. Help young students succeed!

## PANTHER PALS

at Piney Point Elementary

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



## IMPACT at Spring Woods MS

**Mentor Sixth Graders:** October-May, Monday-Friday, 30 min/week (Day is flexible), 11:00-11:30 AM

**Training at MDPC (choose one):**

Wednesday, September 13 | 6:00-7:30 PM (Dinner included)

Sunday, September 24 | 12:20-1:45 PM (Lunch included)

**Volunteer for an Event:** Various dates and projects throughout the year. Contact Robin Helbling ([robin.helbling@gmail.com](mailto:robin.helbling@gmail.com), 713-253-3858).

## 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):**

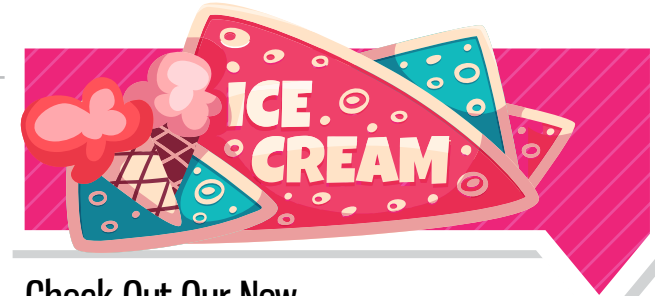
Monday, September 25 | 9:00-11:00 AM (for Monday and Wednesday tutors)

Tuesday, September 26 | 9:00-11:00 AM (for Tuesday and Thursday tutors)

**Volunteer for an Event:** Various dates and projects throughout the year. Contact Laura to learn more ([lrbushong@att.net](mailto:lrbushong@att.net), 281-455-2780).



Photos by Reagan Goodwine



### Check Out Our New Ice Cream Cooler!

Visit our new ice cream cooler anytime the kitchen is open. Products range from \$1.50-\$3.00, and include such classics as Häagen-Dazs, Nestle Push Pops, and Crunch Bars.

**Community Lunch:** 11:30 AM-1:00 PM, Monday-Thursday  
**All-Church Lunch:** 11:00 AM-1:00 PM, First Sundays



### Second Wednesday Nights

We make sandwiches for Kids' Meals... sandwich-making from 4:30-6:00 PM. **Bring 4 loaves of wheat or white bread** (that will make 24 sandwiches!), and then stay for Wednesday Night Dinner! Serving hot meals from **5:00 to 6:30 PM every Wednesday night** in Fellowship Hall!

### The Beauty of Service

by Emma Hall, Food Ministries Summer Intern

After His death and resurrection, before His ascension, Jesus cooked breakfast on the beach. With a charcoal fire, bread, and fish, Christ revealed Himself to his disciples.

Bread and fish. The simplicity of nourishment - of bread and fish - is almost underwhelming. But its significance, the love poured into and represented by the most basic combination of ingredients, is beautiful.

We are all called to serve; to love one another as we strive to follow the example of Christ. Regardless of your knowledge, skill, or occupation, the kitchen is a beautiful place to serve. Whether bread and fish, pulled pork, or homemade

When they got out on land, they saw a charcoal fire in place, with fish laid out on it, and bread. (John 21:9)

pizza, to serve through nourishment is to follow Christ's example on the beach as He revealed Himself to His followers.

As I served as an intern this summer in MDPC's Food Service Ministry, I witnessed the service of countless volunteers as they rolled up their sleeves, washed their hands, and served the body of Christ through food and fellowship. The number of kitchen volunteers speaks volumes to the passion for service that MDPC fosters in its pursuit of serving like Christ. The kitchen doors are open and ready for more volunteers to come in, cook, stir, and experience the joy of nourishing others just as Christ served and led by example.



### Pantry / Mom's Meals

Homemade Soups, Casseroles, Spaghetti Sauce, Pizza, Cookies, Brownies, and Party Trays... Visit our huge freezer and pick out something delicious for dinner!

Order ahead for parties! Call Chef Bernadette at 713-490-0916.



### BITE-SIZED Volunteer Opps

How can you serve? It's a bite at a time. All ages from 12 to Moses have a "roll" to play. Ask Chef Bernadette how to get involved! Learn more at [food.mdpc.org](http://food.mdpc.org)



**MOMS UNITE!  
WE ALL NEED  
A VILLAGE.**



**MOTHERS OF PRESCHOOLERS (MOPS)**

1st and 3rd Thursdays, starting September 7  
9:30-11:15 AM | Fellowship Hall  
Free childcare AND free breakfast

Do you have kids kindergarten and below?  
Come for connection, solid content, and fun.  
We'll save a seat for you!



*For Such  
a Time  
as This*



**Women's  
Spiritual Retreat**

Saturday, November 18 | 9:00 AM-5:00 PM

Get away from Houston's hustle and bustle to connect with Jesus and others at a beautiful ranch in Brenham. Enjoy one-on-one time with God, times of fellowship, and opportunities for yoga or taking a long walk in the country.

Courtney Strong and Amanda Grace will be sharing on the story of Esther and how all of us as women have been raised up for "such a time as this."

A healthy lunch and snacks will be provided.



*The Living Well*

Revival of Heart  
Renewal of Mind  
Rest for Soul



An 18-week study of the Gospel of Mark facilitated by Charlotte Crawford

Wednesdays at Dawn | Amphitheater  
**September 27-February 28**

Come as you are to experience God's presence of peace through His Living Word and prayer. We will gather together to listen to God's word read aloud and a brief devotional followed by time of solitary, still reflection and response through journaling, prayer, and a provided study guide. Women of all ages and stages of faith are warmly welcomed and invited to come and "grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ..." (2 Peter 3:18)

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

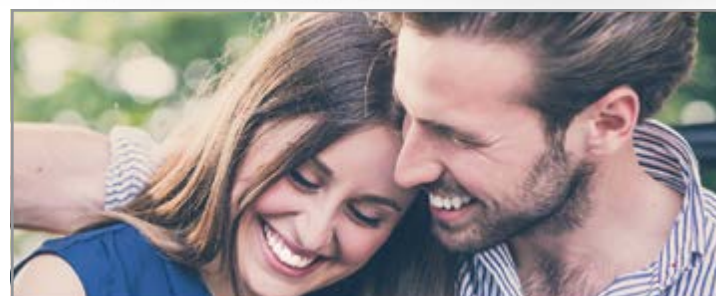


Men's Life  
Kick-Off  
**Cheeseburger  
in Paradise**



Join the men of MDPC as we celebrate the beginning of **Men's Life** with a Cheeseburger in Paradise event with cheeseburgers, pie, and a visit from Alf! All men are invited to this kick-off event.

Tuesday, August 29  
6:45-8:00 PM | Parlor  
RSVP: [men.mdpc.org](http://men.mdpc.org)



**MDPC  
Marriage  
Retreat**

Saturday-Sunday, October 21-22  
Woodlands Waterway Marriott  
\$215/couple (partial scholarships available)  
Register: [marriageretreat.mdpc.org](http://marriageretreat.mdpc.org)

Join Brett and Kellie Hurst of Home Encouragement for a getaway weekend relaxing and reconnecting with your spouse!



*Conversations  
that Matter*



Tuesdays, September 12-December 5  
6:15-7:45 AM | Fellowship Hall  
Breakfast @ 5:45 AM

What are the things that frequently trip men up? Sometimes those pitfalls could be avoided by having a simple conversation...just by facing things head on.

This fall's all-new Men's Life encourages men to have more conversations that make a difference in life. Hard conversations. Messy conversations. Productive conversations. What insights could you learn from other men about straight talk that might impact your life for decades to come? Listen to Alf Halvorson, Brett Hurst, and others share their perspectives.

Find out how to overcome the destructive barriers that keep so many of us from living the abundant life God intended.



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



Questions about anything on this page? Contact Amanda Grace Caldwell: [acaldwell@mdpc.org](mailto:acaldwell@mdpc.org) or 713-490-0931



## SCREENING OF THE GOSPEL OF JOHN MOVIE KICKS OFF BSD STUDY

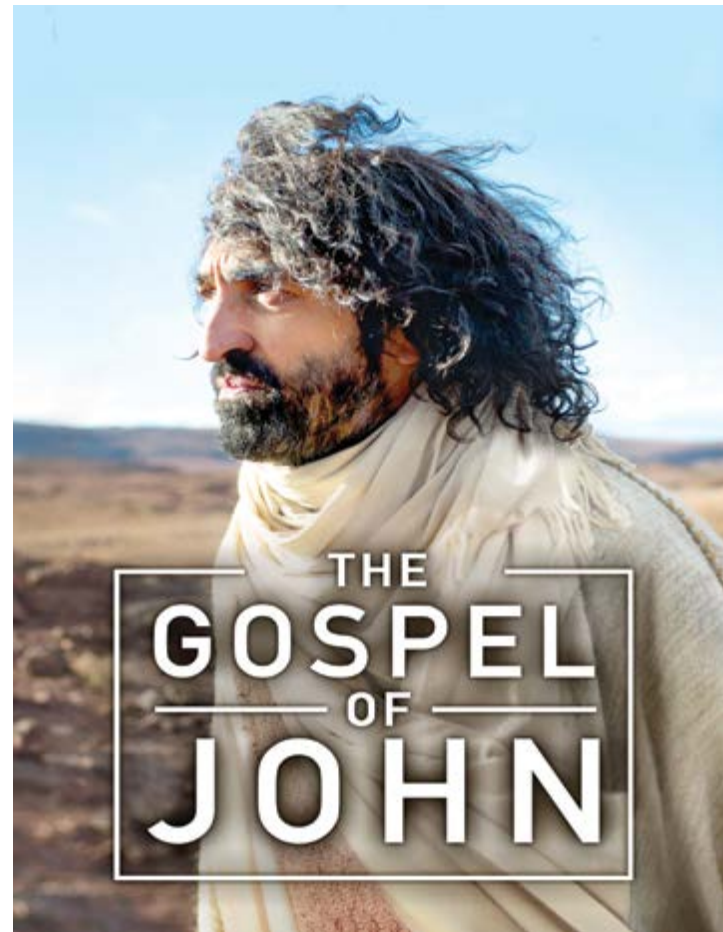
Thursday, August 31 | 9:30 AM | Amphitheater

The 2003 film *The Gospel of John* (PG-13) will be shown in its entirety to kick off this year's Bible Study Discussion (BSD) study. The movie, widely acclaimed by critics, is a word-for-word re-enactment of the Gospel of John. BSD participants are studying John this year and viewing this movie is a great way to absorb the book before beginning the verse-by-verse walk through the study curriculum.

All BSD participants and any interested MDPC members and friends are invited to the showing. After the movie, you can pick up lunch in Fellowship Hall and join us for discussion over lunch in the Summit Room.

If you need childcare and plan to stay for lunch and discussion, contact BSD Administrator Christy Dull (christydull@hotmail.com) so we can be prepared for you.

For those who are not able to attend this showing you can rent the movie from YouTube or borrow it from the Equipping Library.



## Milestones



During the 6th graders' mission trip, the kids learned a bit about **LIFE HOUSTON** (an MDPC mission partner providing baby formula and other essentials to families in tough financial spots) and were encouraged by Outreach Ministries to write notes and prayers to LIFE's staff. The notes they wrote to LIFE were so thoughtful and light-giving - truly a testament to our youth and children's ministries are simply awesome and growing young disciples.



Speaking of special, Rachel and our amazing Children's Ministries team pulled off another memorable **SUMMER CELEBRATION**. MDPC hosted 850 kids for a full week of worship, prayer, fun, and service! Over 16,000 sandwiches were made for Kids' Meals, and the children decorated a special picnic table for Vita-Living. Thank you to all the staff and volunteers who helped, and for being such beautiful examples of God's love and grace!

**DAN AIKINS** is MDPC's new Alpha Hub Director, a recently created position. As you know, Dan is a gifted and passionate servant of God, who has served in MDPC Youth Ministries for several years. He also is a graduate of Fuller Theological Seminary with an MDiv, and is on track to become an ordained ECO pastor. We believe that Dan is uniquely gifted to help MDPC re-launch and lead Alpha for this next season of ministry.

**TREVOR HARRIS** joined the Young Adults as Young Adult Discipleship Director. Trevor grew up at MDPC, served as a summer youth intern a few years ago, and recently completed a term as a youth elder. He has been a constant and enthusiastic volunteer in our youth ministry by leading mission trips, Bible studies, small groups, and Confirmation.

**JEANMARIE TADE** joined the staff as Interim Adult Ministries Director to fill the hole left by

Christyn Knoop. She has been a member at MDPC since 1999, served as an Outreach/Connections elder, and moderated Outreach in 2014. Recently, she sensed God calling her to become an ordained ECO Presbyterian pastor, so she is now a student at Fuller Theological Seminary and in the process of ECO's ordination track.

We're happy to share with you that **CANDICE ALEXANDER** was named the Director of both The Little School and The Yellow School at MDPC. Over the last 10 years as The Little School director, she has built a ministry that is second-to-none. Candice is one of the most highly regarded people in her field, and we look forward to her serving in this expanded role!



The 2017 Men's Retreat photo by David Short

### BIRTHS

**Alaric Tyler Steane** was born March 29, 2017. Alaric is the son of Tyler and Kate Steane and grandson of Dave and Jenny Steane.

**Elizabeth Brantley Butrum** was born April 9, 2017. Elizabeth is the daughter of Kelly and Grant Butrum and granddaughter of Dennis and Sally Nelson.

**Parker James Beasley** was born April 11, 2017. Parker is the son of Brad and Kelsey Beasley and grandson of Nancy Beasley.

**Katherine Grace Crawley** was born April 15, 2017. Katherine is the daughter of Elizabeth and Rob Crawley and granddaughter of John and Lynne Williams.

**Madison Emily Aikins** was born June 8, 2017. Madison is the daughter of Lauren and Dan Aikins and the granddaughter of Diane and Tim Seckinger.

**Christopher Michael Farver** was born June 19, 2017 to Thom Farver's son, Peter, and his wife. Christopher is the first grandchild of Thom and Betsy Farver.

### DEATHS

**Amy Coll** passed away February 3, 2017.

**Max Schuette** passed away February 21, 2017.

**Kay Lamar** passed away March 6, 2017.

**Bob Fillpot** passed away March 11, 2017.

**Walter Workman** passed away March 16, 2017.

**Paul Ache** passed away March 19, 2017.

**Jo Pyle** passed away April 2, 2017.

**Rachael Marie Talbert** passed away April 8, 2017.

**Julie Tade**, Tim Tade's sister, passed away April 11, 2017.

**Charles Lang** passed away April 12, 2017.

**Joe Kohlmaier** passed away April 13, 2017.

**Dick Berry** passed away April 15, 2017.

**Bob Hooker, Sr.** passed away April 15, 2017.

**Dorothy Swinney** passed away April 16, 2017.

**Shirley "Dolly" LeBlanc** passed away April 21, 2017.

**Jack Uselton** passed away April 26, 2017.

**Jimmy Boswell**, Malinn Saxe's father, passed away April 29, 2017.

**George Burgher** passed away May 2, 2017.

**Lee McMurrey**, Janet Tallichet's mother, passed away May 14, 2017.

**Nancy Wheless**, Nancy Zimmerman's mother, passed away May 18, 2017.

**Raymond Britton** passed away May 19, 2017.

**Ralph Gustafson** passed away May 20, 2017.

**Maryann Munroe** passed away May 20, 2017.

**Howard Blauvelt** passed away May 22, 2017.

**Bruce Clauson** passed away May 27, 2017.

**Tommye Jaksa** passed away June 1, 2017.

**Yew Ong**, Angel Fox's mother, passed away June 8, 2017.

**Adele Read** passed away June 15, 2017.

**Bill Biddison** passed away June 22, 2017.

**Betty Phillips**, Cindy Holloway's mother, passed away June 22, 2017.

**Libby Beard** passed away June 23, 2017.

**Brooke Burgher Gibbs** passed away June 25, 2017.

**Christine Redy**, Charles Hausmann's sister, passed away June 25, 2017.

**Judy Snyder** passed away July 8, 2017.



Is there someone YOU know who would make a great **MDPC ELDER?**

Elder Nominations for the 2020 Elder class now are being accepted. Your involvement in this process is essential! Nominations are due Monday, August 28. Visit [nominations.mdpc.org](http://nominations.mdpc.org), or pick up a form located around campus and return it to the Front Office, Attn: Gena Kookan.

## Heads Up for Soccer Season!

Boys and girls in pre-K through 6th grade are invited to play on West Houston Christian Sports League teams coached by volunteers. Practices begin the week of September 4 at MDPC.

Games at area churches: **Saturdays, September 23–November 11**

\$120 (\$145 after Aug. 27) jersey, socks, picture, trophy

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



# Faces and Places

Second Quarter 2017



Record crowds have been showing up to make sandwiches at Kids' Meals



Stacking up the completed sandwiches at Kids' Meals



Making sandwiches for Kids' Meals

Kids' Meals photos by Bill Moehring



Judy Gordon at Lulwanda Children's Home in Uganda



Tara Reynolds at Lulwanda Children's Home



Troy Austin at Lulwanda Children's Home



Jackie White at Lulwanda Children's Home in Uganda



Martha Kuhn ↑



Parents praying for students on the Lulwanda mission trip



Gena Kookan takes an ice cream break at MDPC Kitchen's new cooler!



Hannah Masraff at Lulwanda Children's Home in Uganda

## Coordinating Team

### Mauricio Chacón

Hispanic Ministries Pastor

### Amy Delgado

Interim Outreach Director

### Bob Giles

Interim Business Administrator

### 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 Kookan

Senior Leadership Ministry Coordinator

### Laura Miller

Youth Director

### Rick Myers

Caring Ministries Pastor

### Rachel Poysky

Children's Pastor

### Dave Steane

Executive Pastor

### Kathryn White

Coordinating Music Director/Organist

### Karen Winship

Human Resources Director

### Pastors Emeritus

Dave Peterson • Gary Bowker

## Contact Us

Front Office

713-782-1710

Prayer Chain

713-953-2558



# MDPC

Memorial Drive  
Presbyterian Church

Periodical  
PAID  
Houston, TX

# Looking Ahead

## AUGUST

- 20 First Disciples Sermon Series begins: *Peter* (visit [sermonseries.mdpc.org](http://sermonseries.mdpc.org) for details)
- 27 First Disciples Sermon Series: *James*

## SEPTEMBER

- 3 First Disciples Sermon Series: *John*
- 3 All-Church Lunch
- 4 Labor Day: MDPC offices closed
- 10 First Disciples Sermon Series: *Nathaniel & Bartholomew*
- 12 Men's Life begins
- 13 Kids' Meals Monthly Service Project
- 17 First Disciples Sermon Series: *Matthew & Simon*
- 20 Dave Peterson returns to MDPC to teach a 4-week Bible study on the prayers of Paul\*
- 24 First Disciples Sermon Series: *James & (the other) Judas*
- 27 The Living Well begins

## OCTOBER

- 1 First Disciples Sermon Series: *Reformation Disciples*
- 1 All-Church Lunch
- 8 First Disciples Sermon Series: *Philip*
- 8 Concert Series (Organist *Katelyn Emerson*)
- 9 Columbus Day: MDPC offices closed
- 11 Kids' Meals Monthly Service Project
- 15 First Disciples Sermon Series: *Thomas & Judas Iscariot*
- 28 Concert Series (Mercury Orchestra: *Bach & Mendelssohn*)

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS

- Nov. 24 Bless Friday
- Dec. 2 Concert Series (Mercury Orchestra: *English Baroque Christmas*)
- Dec. 3 Advent Festival
- Dec. 17 Concert Series (Sanctuary Choir: *Gloria*)
- Dec. 24 Crazy Christmas Sunday
- Dec. 24 Christmas Eve Services

\*These weekly dates (Wednesdays, Sept. 20- Oct. 11) are tentative as Dave works through scheduling conflicts

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