

SEASONS



MEMORIAL DRIVE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
SUMMER 2015 • VOL. XIII NO. 3

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our New Senior Pastor!
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Why the Pastor Nominating Committee Believe Alf to be Chosen by God



When we began this search, we felt strongly that God wanted to call a candidate that would fit our congregation and live into its DNA. First and foremost, Alf has an incredibly deep and contagious love for Jesus Christ. As we developed our relationship with Alf, we all realized we were in conversation with someone uniquely gifted to lead our congregation into the future.

A few specific things really stood out for me with Alf. First, his relationship with Shari reveals the depth of his commitment to her and to their family, something that resonates within our congregation. Second, when Alf and Shari saw that the young adults were in need of a place to develop community at FPCB, they opened their home on Sunday evenings and then became part of that community. This is a couple that rolls up their sleeves to address the needs of the congregation. Finally, we realized the depth of love the congregation had for this couple, and could see that same love reflected in how Alf and Shari felt about their congregation. We are excited to imagine what God's plans are for MDPC!

— Mike Handel



We would normally not think of MDPC as a turnaround project, but we may be entering stormy waters in the aftermath of the vote on discernment. I think Alf's compassion and his proven skill for bringing people together around a purpose greater than themselves is exactly the kind of leadership that will allow MDPC to come through this challenging period, and emerge ready to do God's work. Alf has the skill and the vision to help us see our differences as gifts rather than liabilities, and to help us realize that, collectively, we have the ability to really make a difference in the world.

— John Hartman



The time it has taken us as a PNC has solely been an opportunity to let the Holy Spirit speak guidance to Alf and Shari and to speak confirmation to us. Alf is a true man of God who loves Jesus and knows and follows the Truth found in His Word and practice. Shari is the godly partner by his side. We are grateful and excited.

— Debbi Nager

MDPC Calls Rev. Dr. Alf Halvorson

On April 19, the MDPC congregation voted overwhelmingly to approve a call for a new Senior Pastor. Learn more about Alf, his family, and his faith.

Alf (rhymes with "golf") was raised in a strong Christian home in Minnesota, but spent part of his youth in Nevada, Missouri, where he and Shari met. They married right after graduating from college. Shari is a community health nurse, and has enjoyed singing in the traditional choir, playing in the contemporary band, and helping in children's ministry at FPCB. Their son, Matt, is graduating from The University of Texas in May with an MA in Educational Psychology. Their daughter, Kristen, is graduating from Eastern University, Philadelphia, with a BS in Athletic Training.

Alf was ordained in the Presbyterian Church in 1991. He graduated Summa Cum Laude and Phi Beta Kappa from Luther College (Decorah, Iowa) with a BA, majoring in Political Science and Psychology. Alf went on to receive his Master of Divinity (1990) and Master of Theology (1991) from Princeton Theological Seminary, and his Doctor of Ministry from Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary (2011).

Since his ordination, Alf has served in three churches:

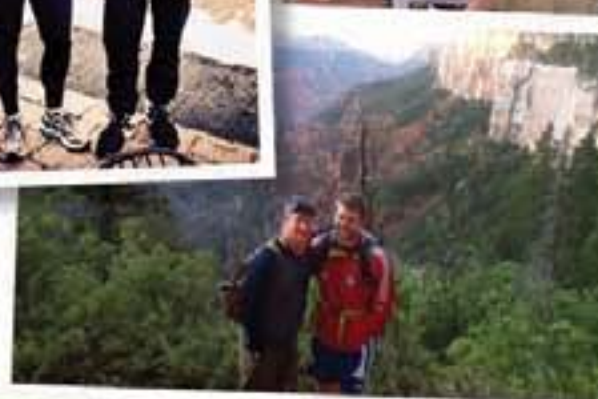
- 1) Collegiate Presbyterian Church
Ames, Iowa (750 members)
- 2) First & Calvary Presbyterian Church
Springfield, Missouri (2,300 members)
- 3) First Presbyterian Church Bethlehem
Bethlehem, Pennsylvania (2,600 members)

Alf treasures time with family, and enjoys golf, hiking, games, movies, and time around the backyard fire pit in conversation with family and friends. Alf played high school and college basketball until he was sidelined by an injury. He is an avid sports fan.

During his three-month sabbatical in the summer of 2013, he hiked with his family from rim to rim of the Grand Canyon.

We are excited for the Halvorsons to get settled here in Houston and at MDPC. His permanent start date will likely be August 1, as he and Shari had some summer commitments scheduled prior to accepting the call to MDPC.

Stay tuned to the website at pastor.mdpc.org for updated information on Alf and Shari's arrival.



THE CHINA TRIP

SPRING 2015

MDPC takes a trip to the other side of the world to find God at work.

Sights, smells, and sounds. Different, beautiful, and mind-stretching. In March, a team of thirteen left MDPC with the goal of traveling to the Far East to encourage two different partners living there and to learn about the Christian movement in China. The trip encompassed eleven days of traveling to Beijing and Tianjin in Eastern China, and then flying west to Xining on the Tibetan Plateau.

In Eastern China, the team was drawn into an international school where Christian values are taught primarily by Chinese nationals. These teachers and coaches told us about being the first Christians in their families and the struggles associated with being different, but also shared their passion about following Christ and spreading the Good News to their friends and neighbors. Their love for Christ was inspiring to each of us on the trip.

Xining was very different from Eastern China. We learned of the struggle between the Chinese and Tibetans, but could see how God clearly is at work through our Christian brothers and sisters. The people of Xining are predominantly Muslim and Buddhist, and the team dedicated two days to immersion in those religions/cultures. Our MDPC partners in Xining educated us about a way of doing God's work called Business As Mission, or "BAM." This model enables field workers to work officially in business as a way of engaging with the local people, providing jobs and training, and establishing themselves in the community. The partners we visited in Xining followed God's leading to build a local business, which currently is expanding to other cities. This business also houses other projects which serve the community and provide doorways to share faith. We heard story after story of how God had led them to people who needed them desperately.

The dramatic separation between Eastern and Western cultures caused both the beauty and the differences to stand out in sharp relief. We could have been overwhelmed by the assault on our senses, but our partners simply folded us into their lives, their work, and their worlds. We saw things from a local's viewpoint, providing for a much richer experience. Seeing China in this more personal, up-close way gave us insight into the way life works there, with all its hopes and frustrations. We were wide-eyed with wonder and questions for our partners and their Chinese friends. What most stood out to us was the trust and conviction exhibited by our partners. "The people we met heard God calling them, and they simply went. They didn't know what they would do

once they arrived, but they had, and continue to have, faith that God will figure it out," said William Soo of MDPC's Communications Department. We all were challenged to look more closely at our own faith and trust in God and God's plans for us. We came home renewed and refreshed and very glad to have American-style toilets!

One of the great blessings of the trip was to have William with us. He is originally from Taiwan and his facility with Mandarin allowed us to engage with locals to hear their personal faith stories. It also didn't hurt that he could help us discern the strange and wonderful food we were eating, and find the bathrooms! Each person on the team brought his or her gifts, personality, and style to the trip. We became family with one another and with our partners, grateful to God who poured out His Grace on us the entire time.

MDPC continues to be blessed by all of our partners, both locally and globally. God is at work and His Light is shining. Please pray for our field workers and other Christians who have a heart for seeing Christ glorified in all of China, in our city, and across the world.

Counter-clockwise from lower right: Xining street market; Diann Turet and Janell Kelleher outside a Xining restaurant; Mary Beth Moehring, Janell, and Amy Delgado at the Narnia school in Tianjin, where Christian values are taught; the entire China team with one of our missionary couples; Howard Jacobson and Amy (below) with Narnia students; Kristin Huffman gifts a muñeco made by our Knitting for Missions group; William Soo with a Tibetan monk; Amy, Janell, and William at an "Eastern-style" outdoor gym.



MDPC YOUTH

RESET

Here at MDPC Youth, we are CRAZY about summer. We love this season! It gives us an opportunity to connect with students during the ample free time allotted to our kids when school is out of session.

I think of the summer season as similar to the times Jesus would intentionally pull away from the constant demands of His work to commune with God. He was freed up from distraction and able to fully focus on what mattered: intimacy with His Father. This time refueled Him for what lay ahead.

If you know a thing or two about teenagers, you may know how busy they are during the school year. Our students are typically heavily invested in academics and extracurricular activities. They are juggling social lives, school lives, and spiritual lives, often running on little sleep or free time. We know how important the summer season is for them to break away from the daily grind and reset their focus on what truly matters!

We love watching God meet our youth during the summer months. We see Him work in big ways as students are freed up to spend more time with Him and in fellowship with one another. We see this as a crucial time for them to hit the "reset" button—they can look at their lives with fresh eyes; they can pursue God in new ways; they can do things that make them come alive. Summer is a new start. After summer, we get to watch our kids head back into their lives at school fired up about their faith and excited to bring all that God has done in their lives into the fall semester!



RESET

with MDPC Youth this Summer:

Sunday Mornings

Middle School Connection: A time of teaching and worship
High School Connection: A time of small groups and Bible Study

Sunday Evenings

High School Sport Night on the MDPC Field

Tuesday Evenings

Middle School Fellowship Event
High School Worship Night

Thursday Mornings

Middle School Bible Brunch



SUMMER 2015

GAME ON!

Get in the game and start living the adventure of following Jesus!

Video games offer the convenient option of hitting reset. We usually take advantage of the reset button when the game is going downhill - when you need a fresh start. Once you reset, it is Game On again!

The summer is a chance for kids to reset their walk with God and get back in the game of serving Jesus in the world. Over 200 students will go on summer mission trips with MDPC Youth, stepping out of their comfort zones to put their faith into action.

Please join us in praying for the youth and adults going out to serve in Jesus' Name. If you would like to be an official trip Prayer Partner for one of our students, contact Youth Elder Kristina Seiler at kristinaseiler@comcast.net.

SUMMER MISSION TRIPS & CAMPS

6th Grade Mission Trip
Inner-city Houston, Texas
July 8-9

7th and 8th Grade Mission Trip
San Antonio, Texas
June 7-13

High School Mission Trip
New Orleans, Louisiana
June 22-28

High School Fun in the Sun Camp
South Padre Island, Texas
July 12-18

International Mission Trip
Uganda, Africa
July 21-31

LOCAL MISSION PROJECTS

Houston and Galveston

We are planning short service projects throughout the summer for middle school and high school students. Check youth.mdpc.org for summer schedule and events.



CALLED BY GOD

Within the past few months, two MDPC members have walked with faith into new directions. Howard Jacobson left his secular job and went to work at The Micah Project, and Miah Collins left the MDPC Youth staff to join Living Water International in a challenging and exciting new position. Read more of their stories, and how God brought them to these life-altering decisions.

Called to Micah: Walking Closely with God

By Howard Jacobson



We joined MDPC in August of 1988, and have always appreciated its Dollar-for-Dollar commitment to outreach. However, during those early, hectic years raising two children, we had no direct involvement with MDPC Outreach Ministries. Then, one Sunday in October of 2007, we left the 9-45 service to find Brian Tarr and Bill Gilchrist at a table promoting a well-drilling mission planned for the following March. My career was in the water industry, so, as a number of people said, that seemed right up my alley! My calling to the water ministry seemed obvious after that meaningful and awareness-altering trip to El Salvador with Living Water International (LWI). Indeed, I have been blessed to serve on a number of LWI trips.

Then, early in 2009, there was an announcement about a Memorial Day weekend vision trip to The Micah Project in Tegucigalpa, Honduras. By then I was a member of the Global Outreach Committee and had heard a number of people praise The Micah Project, a long-time MDPC partner. I signed up for the May vision trip out of

curiosity, still convinced my only real interest in missions was clean water. If the LWI trips rewrote the story I knew of the rest of the world's living conditions, the trip to Micah added an exclamation point. Seeing boys as young as nine living on the streets with no adult support, the smell of urine permeating the alley where they hung out, their glue-induced blank expressions—it was nauseating to this soft North American. The hope and joy of The Micah House stood in direct contrast to the despair of life on the streets.

MDPC Youth Ministries called me the following year to ask if I could fill a last-minute need for a chaperone on a trip to Micah. Again, the things we experienced moved me profoundly. On our final day, as I stood watching the group load the bus to the airport, the founder of The Micah Project, Michael Miller, turned to me and expressed that he would like me to serve on their Board. I joined the Board in January 2011, yet the feeling I'd had since my first trip to Micah persisted. I still felt a sense that God was calling me toward something else.

In 2014, the Micah Board decided to create a position based in the USA to relieve the field workers and staff in Honduras from some of the organizational tasks, and to support development of the growing ministry. God put the idea in my head, Howard Edington erased my doubts during his sermons, and I found myself expressing to Michael that I wanted to be considered to fill the new position. After consultation with family and trusted friends and much prayer, and with a bit of a pit in my stomach, I retired from a Water District I had served for over 25 years to begin a new career on April 1, 2015.

I believe God placed that table in the MDPC breezeway on a fall day in 2007 to lead me ultimately to serve a bunch of rowdy teenage guys who have been rescued from the streets of Tegucigalpa. And I am thankful.



Called to LWI: Spiritually Hydrated

By Miah Collins

My story with Living Water International (LWI) is a unique one. In 2010, my wife, Michelle, and I were living in South Africa and taking trips to help with ministry in the small West African nation of Liberia. While there, we stayed in an elementary school connected to a church outside the capital city. The school had a beautiful hand pump used by the surrounding community to get clean water. I saw a Living Water sticker on the pump and said to my friend, "That sounds like a Christian organization." He said that indeed it was, and that LWI had installed many wells in the area. I used that well for a total of eight weeks, and was particularly grateful for it after being shown the murky lake that had been the community's water source prior to the well's installation. I have thought often about that pump over the past year, especially knowing that clean water is a key resource in stopping the spread of Ebola. When I moved here, I was excited to see that the organization that installed that well was based in Houston, and that our new church was very involved in the ministry!

MDPC is a close partner of LWI, and the MDPC congregation has a great reputation around the LWI offices for generosity and participation in short-term trips. I already felt so positively about the ministry. Then, last fall, as I felt God's hand directing me toward a new position at LWI, I realized that I would get to stay in the same town, I wouldn't have to move our family into a new home, and I'd be able to stay at my home church! That situation had never happened to me before when changing jobs.

I accepted the LWI position and, after just one month on staff, I found myself newly impressed with Living Water's relentless commitment to quality water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) projects, and to partnering with local churches and missionaries for gospel proclamation.

Water holds implications for every area of life. Without clean water, other development initiatives fall flat. For example, if communities around the world had access to clean water and sanitation, they would gain 5.6 billion productive days per year. Think about how much this would impact the lives of women whose time is wasted carrying unclean water over long distances or the countless children who are regularly absent from school because of water-related illnesses.

My role on staff is coordinating Team Living Water, which participates in endurance events for the benefit of those enduring life without clean water. Our nationwide team raises awareness and significant money for the thirsty, especially at the Chevron Houston Marathon, where we are one of the biggest fundraisers. Team Living Water is a great way to become an advocate for the 748 million people who still lack access to clean water.

I look forward to creating a team from MDPC for the Chevron Houston Marathon and Aramco Half Marathon in January 2016. Let me know if you would like to run with us, or non-runners can volunteer with our "Hoopla" supporter groups on race day. Just shoot me an email and I'll get you plugged in! Join me and feel the satisfaction of being part of a global initiative that saves lives every day.

To learn more about The Micah Project: micahprojecthonduras.org

To learn more about Living Water International: water.cc



Congregational Directed Gifts

Children's Church School Offering	\$1,018.00
Christmas Eve Offering	\$23,949.90
Designated Benevolence Disaster Relief	\$48,940.00
Mission Market	\$28,609.97
Non-Cash Gifts	\$31,607.30
Palm Sunday Offering (for Living Water Int'l)	\$21,463.00
Souper Bowl Offering (for Houston Food Bank)	\$13,624.22
TOTAL Congregational Directed Gifts	\$169,212.39

Ministry-sponsored Outreach Activities & Benevolence

COMMUNICATIONS & MEDIA		
Communications - Audio/Visual	\$58.20	
Communications - Community Advertising	15,753.56	
CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES		
Child Care Plus	18,000.00	
Children's Mission Projects	5,620.05	
Children's Ministries Scholarships: Camps, Sum. Cel.	1,000.00	
Children's Summer Interns	7,535.52	
Family Mission Trip/Family Events	3,177.54	
MDPC's The Little School	10,000.00	
MDPC's The Yellow School	10,000.00	
Room For One More	491.80	
Special Needs Parents Day	1,488.27	
Sports Camp	2,000.00	
Summer Celebration	20,000.00	
Super Place Camp	1,607.21	
MEN'S MINISTRIES		
Men's Life - Community Outreach	4,837.90	
Men's Min Disabled in Action	7,922.00	
Men's Min Outreach Projects	236.25	
REACH AND SPORTS MINISTRIES		
REACH Outreach	2,592.00	
REACH Program Support	1,073.40	
REACH Scholarships	579.50	
Sports Scholarships & Outreach	110.00	
EQUIPPING MINISTRIES		
Adult Ministries Outreach Programs	3,318.48	
Young Adults	701.80	
RELATIONSHIPS MINISTRIES		
Marriage & Family New Ministry Ventures	2,138.17	
Premarital & Marriage Enrichment	5,863.72	
Relationships Ministry Scholarships	200.00	
Relationships Mission Outreach Discretionary	2,000.00	
Single Parents	83.88	
Weddings at MDPC	4,277.51	
SPANISH (FUENTE) MINISTRIES		48,841.73
YOUTH MINISTRIES		
Mission Trip - Middle School	24,787.42	
Mission Trip - High School	51,841.22	
Mission Trip - Sixth Grade	3,113.22	
Youth Mission Weekend	2,092.38	
Youth Outreach Support	4,405.34	
Youth Summer Interns	7,535.52	
Youth Trip Scholarships	4,225.50	
WORSHIP & MUSIC MINISTRIES		
Fifth Service	963.61	
Special Events - Concert Series	10,000.00	
OUTREACH MINISTRIES		
Connections Ministry	6,655.39	
Food Service Outreach	12,000.00	

HUG Outreach	571.01
IMPACT - Mentoring at Spring Woods Middle School	42,115.17
Kids' Meals and Search	5,518.92
Knitting for Missions	355.71
MDPC Staff to Outreach Events	26,151.67
Medical Center Apartments	51,105.87
Missional Storytelling Media	3,835.93
Mobile Unit Ministry	22,444.18
Operation Compassion Projects	2,303.54
Outreach Discretionary	16,755.70
Outreach Printing	7,611.76
Outreach Supplies	2,291.44
Piney Point Elementary Outreach	4,864.36
Presbytery of New Covenant	275,000.00
Seminarian Care	33,497.27
Sewing for Missions	2,399.57
Small Group Service Projects	553.03
Spring Branch Bus Ministry	23,432.20
Teen Moms	7,410.63
Visitors/Hospitality	1,494.93
Walk-in Discretionary	3,846.12
TOTAL Ministry-sponsored Outreach Activities & Benevolence	\$1,012,399.19

Global Partnership Funding

Faith Ministry-MDF	41,500.00
The Antioch Partners	50,000.00
Transitions Foundation	50,000.00
Berea Bible Institute	19,000.00
African Enterprise	32,500.00
China Resource Center	9,000.00
Faith In Practice	30,000.00
Far East Broadcasting	75,200.00
Free Wheelchair Missions	25,000.00
Grace International Children's Home	57,050.00
The Micah Project	40,000.00
New Life (Nueva Vida) with Education	23,000.00
The Outreach Foundation	15,000.00
Presbyterian Frontier Fellowship	90,000.00
Youth With A Mission	25,000.00
(12) Field Workers	155,000.00
TOTAL Global Partnership Funding, Additional Gifts+Field Workers	\$737,150.00

Children, Families, & Housing

Children's Activity Center	20,000.00
Family Point Resources	25,000.00
Houston Achievement Place	10,000.00
SEARCH Homeless Services	25,000.00
Outreach Center Of West Houston	5,000.00
Aldine Family Hope Center	15,500.00
Child Advocates	10,800.00
Hope For Youth	7,500.00
Star Of Hope	15,000.00
Women's Pregnancy Center	5,000.00
Casa de Esperanza de Los Niños	10,000.00
Child Builders	55,000.00
The Beacon	20,000.00
Bread Of Life	10,000.00
Forge For Families	10,000.00
Generation One	25,000.00
Yellowstone Academy	15,000.00
Agape Development Ministries	31,200.00
Back 2 Basics	16,000.00
Boys and Girls Country	10,000.00
Generation One	6,000.00

Open Door Mission	20,000.00
Pro-Vision	10,000.00
Rebuilding Together Houston	20,000.00
Small Steps Nurturing Center	20,000.00
The Woods Project	7,500.00
TOTAL Children, Families, & Housing	\$ 380,700.00

Discipleship & Education

Bridges To Life	\$16,000.00
Camp Aranzazu	\$15,000.00
Camp Blessing Texas	\$20,000.00
Faithful Fathering	\$15,000.00
Houston International Seafarers	\$30,000.00
United Campus Ministry	\$15,000.00
Austin College	\$5,000.00
Cho-Yeh Camp & Conference Center	\$50,000.00
Young Life Of Greater Houston	\$70,000.00
College Of Biblical Studies	\$25,000.00
Wee Kirk	\$3,000.00
Scripture Awakening / Bible In 90 Days Program	\$12,500.00
The WorkFaith Connection	\$25,000.00
Faithwalking	\$15,000.00
Presbyterian Mo-Ranch	\$9,000.00
Stoney Creek Ranch	\$15,000.00
Texas Theological Foundation, Houston Fuller	\$37,000.00
Alpha Houston	\$15,000.00
Center For Student Missions	\$12,000.00
The Gathering of Men	\$7,000.00
The Get Together	\$5,000.00
Home Encouragement	\$7,500.00
Mission Houston	\$24,000.00
Prison Entrepreneurship Program	\$25,000.00
TOTAL Discipleship & Education	\$ 500,000.00

Spring Branch & Hunger

ESCAPE Family Resource Center	\$9,801.35
Westside Homeless Partnership	\$20,000.00
LIFE Houston	\$12,301.33
Newspring	\$25,000.00
Spring Spirit Baseball	\$27,000.00
Christian Community Services / Martha's Way Program	\$3,900.00
Cornerstone Family Ministries	\$25,000.00
Kids' Meals Inc.	\$40,500.00
Mission Of Yahweh	\$15,000.00
Presbyterian Children's Homes Family Program	\$25,000.00
Souper Bowl Of Caring	\$13,000.00
Spring Branch Family Development Center	\$15,000.00
Urban Outreach	\$32,301.33
Gracewood	\$10,000.00
Interfaith Ministries Meals On Wheels Program	\$17,301.33
Memorial Assistance Ministries	\$20,000.00
Salvation Army / Harbor Light Center Food Program	\$20,000.00
Spring Branch Community Health Center	\$15,000.00
Aid To Victims Of Domestic Violence	\$5,000.00
Mission Centers Of Houston	\$7,301.33
Santa Maria Hostel	\$7,301.33
The Women's Home	\$15,000.00
East Spring Branch Food Pantry	\$14,792.00
TOTAL Spring Branch & Hunger	\$ 395,500.00

Health & Special Needs

Prayers For The People	\$24,500.00
Camp For All	\$7,500.00
Palmer Drug Abuse Program	\$14,797.00
The Amazing Place	\$42,850.00
CanCare Of Houston	\$10,000.00
Candlelighters	\$13,660.00
Interface Samaritan Counseling Centers	\$30,000.00
The Rose	\$15,000.00
SIRE Therapeutic Equestrian Program	\$9,098.00
Bering Omega Community Services	\$20,000.00
Bo's Place	\$7,500.00
Interfaith Care Partners	\$23,500.00
Parent Project Muscular Dystrophy	\$13,000.00
Spaulding For Children	\$20,000.00
Vita-Living	\$20,000.00
Be An Angel	\$20,000.00
Freedom Place	\$15,000.00
Aids Foundation Of Houston	\$7,500.00
Casa El Buen Samaritano	\$5,000.00
Easter Seals Of Greater Houston	\$20,000.00
Redeemed Ministries	\$5,000.00
TOTAL Health & Special Needs	\$ 375,905.00

2014 Christmas Eve Offering (Paid in 2015)

Action International Ministries (1 field worker)	\$1,330.55
The Antioch Partners (4 field workers)	\$5,322.20
Church Resource Ministry (1 field worker)	\$1,330.55
Common Ground Consultants (1 field worker)	\$1,330.55
Frontiers (2 field workers)	\$2,661.10
Presbyterian Frontier Fellowship (2 field workers)	\$2,661.10
Youth With a Mission (1 field worker)	\$1,330.55
Agape Development Ministry	\$1,330.55
Be An Angel	\$1,330.55
CanCare of Houston	\$1,330.55
Gracewood	\$1,330.55
Open Door Mission	\$1,330.55
Westside Homeless Partnership	\$1,330.55
TOTAL Recipients of 2014 Christmas Eve Offering	\$ 23,949.90

Good Housekeeping Capital Gifts

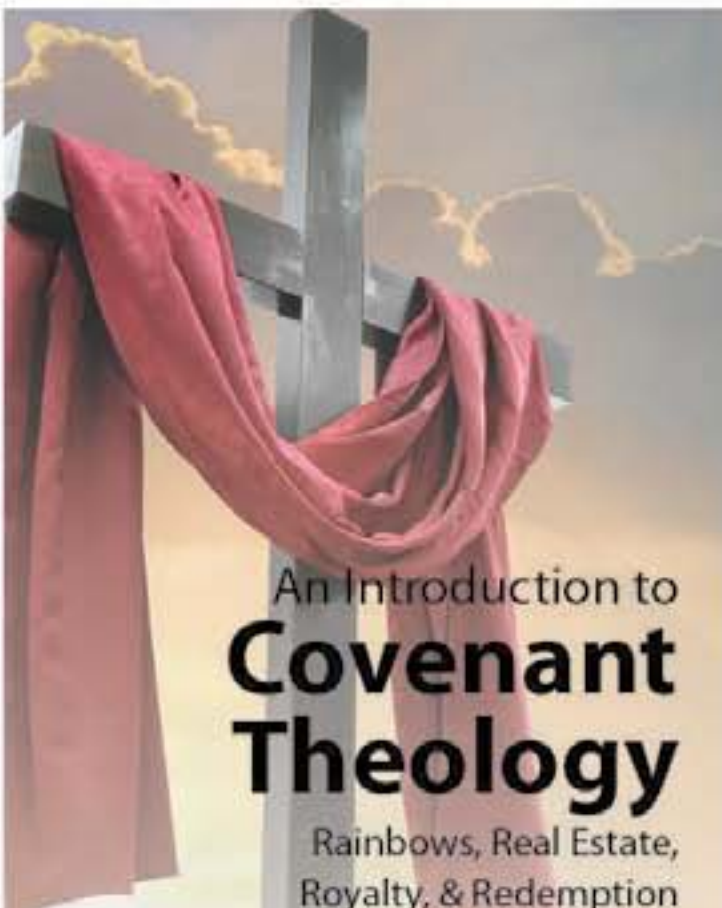
Agape Development (Capital Campaign)	\$40,000.00
Aldine Family Hope Center (Capital Campaign)	\$30,000.00
Back 2 Basics (Passenger Van)	\$30,000.00
Berea Bible Institute (Roof Repairs)	\$5,000.00
Center For Student Missions (A/C Window Units)	\$5,000.00
Children's Activity Center (Kitchen Repairs)	\$7,000.00
ESCAPE Family Resource Center (Capital Campaign)	\$40,000.00
Faith In Practice (Inventory System)	\$25,000.00
Generation One (Passenger Van)	\$25,000.00
Interface Samaritan Counseling Center (Roof Repair)	\$20,000.00
Interfaith Ministries Meals On Wheels (New Truck)	\$50,000.00
Living Water International (Well Sponsorship)	\$20,000.00
The Micah Project (New Bus)	\$40,460.00
Mission Centers Of Houston (Build Residential Housing)	\$25,000.00
Mission Of Yahweh (Renovate Kitchen/Laundry/Dining)	\$25,000.00
New Life With Education (Earthquake Repair)	\$7,000.00
Outreach Foundation (School Management System)	\$23,540.00
PFT-Light Of Hope, Ethiopia (Build Schools)	\$25,000.00
Prison Entrepreneurship Program (Repair Office Roof)	\$5,000.00
SEARCH Homeless Services (Chapel Building)	\$25,000.00
Small Steps Nurturing Center (Passenger Van)	\$27,000.00
TOTAL Recipients of Good Housekeeping Gifts	\$ 500,000.00

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITION
AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2014, AND 2013

Consolidated Statement of Activities
for the year ended December 31, 2014

	2014	2013
ASSETS		
Cash	\$ 3,592,189	\$ 3,575,847
Accounts receivable and other assets	128,475	220,507
Notes receivable	68,100	74,100
Investments	56,374	276,714
Cash and investments restricted for capital improvements	1,641,183	2,736,122
Pledges receivable for capital improvements, net of allowance of \$125,000 in 2013		558,258
Investments restricted for endowment	1,562,021	1,493,506
Property and equipment, net	21,617,820	23,171,849
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 28,666,162	\$ 32,106,903
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS		
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	\$ 158,508	\$ 168,508
Grants payable	249,306	484,000
Construction payable	34,691	610,959
Accrued salaries and benefits	32,089	73,267
Deferred program fees	379,600	367,052
Custodial accounts	122,919	104,882
Total liabilities	977,113	1,808,668
Commitments and Contingencies		
Net assets		
Unrestricted	24,614,152	25,371,642
Temporarily restricted	2,643,666	4,504,372
Permanently restricted	431,231	422,221
Total net assets	27,689,049	30,298,235
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	\$ 28,666,162	\$ 32,106,903

	TEMPORARILY UNRESTRICTED	PERMANENTLY RESTRICTED	RESTRICTED	TOTAL
REVENUE				
Contributions	\$ 9,917,155	\$ 484,572	\$ 9,010	\$ 10,410,737
Auxiliary program fees	2,077,464			2,077,464
Investment return	28,439	44,224		72,663
Other income	168,259			168,259
TOTAL REVENUE	12,191,317	528,796	9,010	12,729,123
Satisfaction of donor restrictions				
Capital expenditures	1,279,732	(1,279,732)		
Program expenditures	1,109,770	(1,109,770)		
TOTAL	14,580,819	(1,860,706)	9,010	12,729,123
EXPENSES				
Operating expenses				
Facilities	1,803,979			1,803,979
Management and general	1,737,120			1,737,120
Children and Youth Ministries	1,008,949			1,008,949
Music Ministries	595,616			595,616
Outreach Ministries	556,222			556,222
Equipping Ministries	469,192			469,192
Caring Ministries	439,509			439,509
Worship Ministries	435,296			435,296
Relationships Ministries	227,290			227,290
Good Housekeeping	70,582			70,582
Allocation of costs to ministry outreach	(1,713,923)			(1,713,923)
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES	5,629,832			5,629,832
Ministry outreach				
Grants	3,341,327			3,341,327
Good Housekeeping grants	500,000			500,000
Allocation of costs to ministry outreach	1,713,923			1,713,923
TOTAL MINISTRY OUTREACH EXPENSES	5,555,250			5,555,250
Auxiliary program expenses	2,008,632			2,008,632
Depreciation	2,144,595			2,144,595
TOTAL EXPENSES	15,338,309			15,338,309
CHANGES IN NET ASSETS	(757,490)	(1,860,706)	9,010	(2,609,186)
Net assets, beginning of year	25,371,642	4,504,372	422,221	30,298,235
Net assets, end of year	\$ 24,614,152	\$ 2,643,666	\$ 431,231	\$ 27,689,049



An Introduction to Covenant Theology


Rainbows, Real Estate, Royalty, & Redemption

Our lives are filled with promises – some kept, some broken. This class, taught by MDPC Elder Drew Tingleaf, introduces some of the key promises, or *covenants*, that God makes with His people. We'll study the amazing way these promises serve as a lens through which we can examine the supernatural, and yet very tangible, love of God.



Wednesdays, May 27-June 10
6:30-8:00 PM | Summit Room
register.mdpc.org

Free childcare available by reservation: childcare@mdpc.org



Part of the Wednesday Night Teaching Series

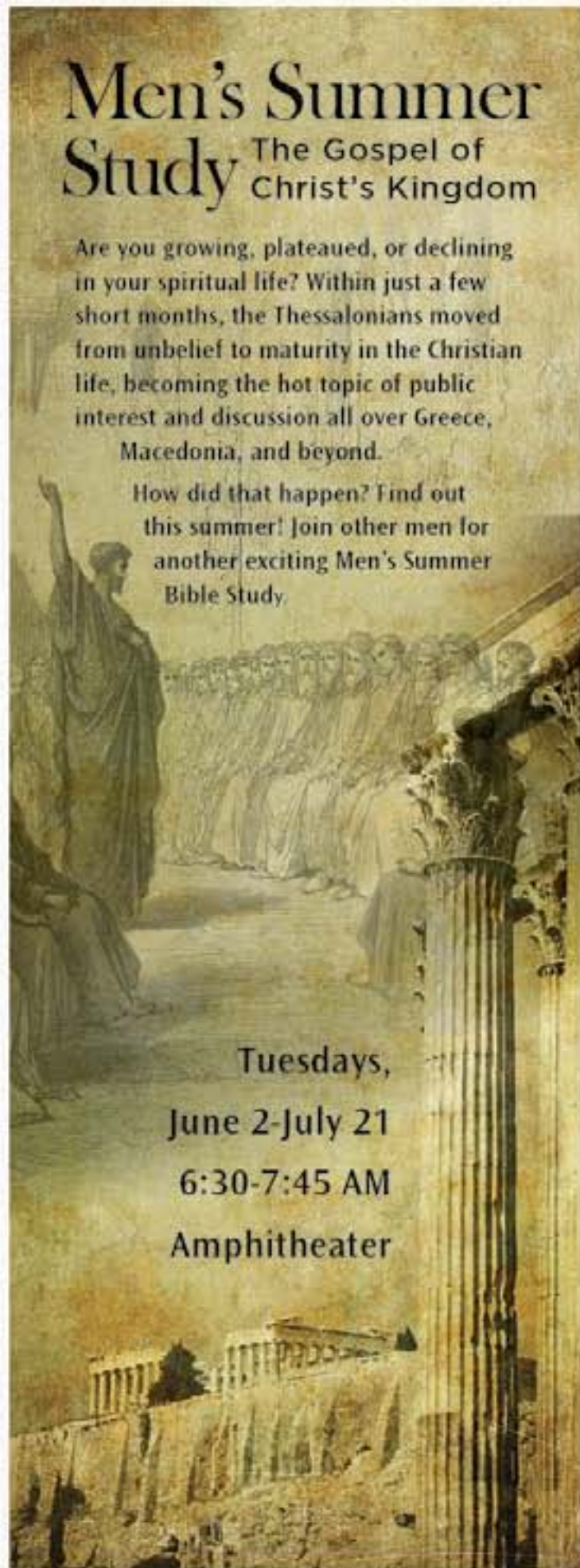
Men's Summer Study

The Gospel of Christ's Kingdom

Are you growing, plateaued, or declining in your spiritual life? Within just a few short months, the Thessalonians moved from unbelief to maturity in the Christian life, becoming the hot topic of public interest and discussion all over Greece, Macedonia, and beyond.

How did that happen? Find out this summer! Join other men for another exciting Men's Summer Bible Study.

Tuesdays,
June 2-July 21
6:30-7:45 AM
Amphitheater



DECODING THE MILLENNIAL GENERATION



The Millennial generation (b. 1980-2000), the largest generation in American history, is beginning to come of age. Soon they'll be the leaders of churches, companies, and the government. So exactly who are these Millennials, and why does it seem like they're so different from previous generations?

This two-week class is designed for parents, friends, bosses, and anyone seeking to better understand and appreciate the Millennial generation. Brandon Gaide, Associate Pastor of Next Gen and himself an unapologetic Millennial, will touch on some of the common questions from older generations: Why is she living at home again? When is he going to get a real job? How do they view church, or religion in general?

There's lots to learn! Bring your questions and your anxieties about this curious generation of young adults.

register.mdpc.org

Free childcare by reservation: childcare@mdpc.org

Wednesdays, May 6 & 13
6:30-8:00 PM | Summit Room

Taught by Associate Pastor Brandon Gaide

THE WELL: STORYTELLERS

WHAT I WISH I HAD KNOWN


It's something we all think about...
If I had known ____, I would have ____.
If I had known ____, I would've run away from ____.
If I had known ____, I would have chosen differently.

Women in your same life stage—and a few stages ahead or behind—are coming together to hear a panel of real, honest women talk about the things they wish they had known.

This is The Well, a quarterly offering that draws together women of all ages to commune and connect.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 20
6:30-8:00 PM • CHAPEL

Free childcare by reservation: childcare@mdpc.org
women.mdpc.org



SUMMER FILM SERIES

Fun for the Whole Family*

Sponsored by Prime Timers



**FREE ADMISSION
& POPCORN**
3:00 PM | Amphitheater



Wednesday
June 3
Rated PG



Wednesday
June 17
Rated PG-13



Wednesday
July 22
Rated G



Wednesday
August 5
Rated PG

Prime Timers Senior Ministry Group proudly hosts another summer film series for your enjoyment! Beat the heat while enjoying free popcorn and these acclaimed films. All are welcome, free of charge.

Not all movies are suitable for all ages. Please visit www.pluggedin.com to review movie content to see if it is appropriate for your family. Closed caption provided.

Childcare available by reservation:
childcare@mdpc.org

MDPC Singles,
Single Parents,
and Friends

Theology On Tap

Bring your questions about God, the Church, and the Christian life to a casual locale. We'll gather once a month to sift through them anonymously and enjoy compassionate but engaging conversation, all while exploring great bars and restaurants!

Mondays, May 18, June 15, July 20 | 6:00 PM

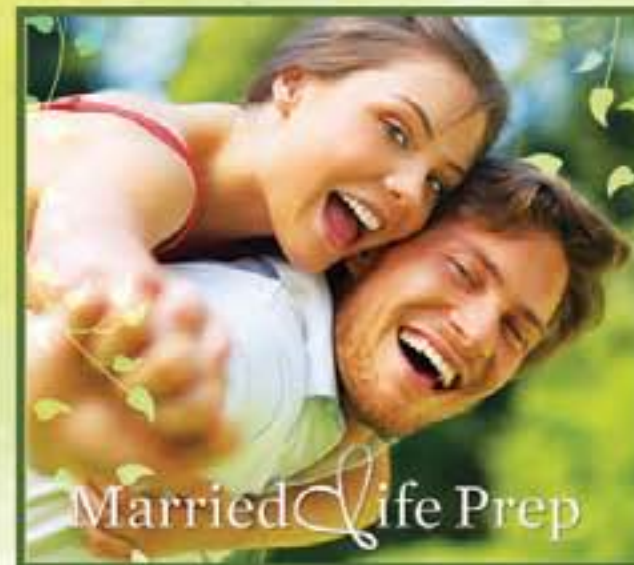
Location moves around Houston bars and restaurants. For details and more great events, visit singles.mdpc.org.

REACH

Recreation Ministry

It's time to start thinking about summer and what kids are going to do while they're out of school! REACH has all sorts of fun camps to keep your kids out of trouble. Tire them out with dance, karate, tumbling, and golf, or engage their minds with Mad Science and engineering-oriented Lego camps. There are still lots of open spots, but they're filling up fast!

Log on to reach.mdpc.org to learn more and register today, or contact REACH at reach@mdpc.org or 713-490-9564.



Married Life Prep

Are you recently engaged and planning a wedding? Are you newly married? Join us for one of two annual sessions of Married Life Prep, combining Biblical teaching with real-life stories and the best current marriage research. Taught by Brett and Kellie Hurst of Home Encouragement, the course is built around The Couple Checkup, a research-based online relationship inventory developed by Dr. David Olson and Dr. Peter Larson of Life Innovations, Inc. It also features insights from the New York Times bestseller *The Seven Principles for Making Marriage Work* by Dr. John M. Gottman, internationally known marriage authority. For pre-marital couples that take this course prior to their wedding date, many will be able to waive their marriage license fee through the "Twogether in Texas" initiative.

Research has shown that learning good premarital insights through focused training can improve the likelihood of a long-lasting marriage by 50% or more! We hope you can join us for this free series.

Register: mlp.mdpc.org

Questions? Contact Amanda Grace Caldwell:
acaldwell@mdpc.org or 713-490-0931

Summer 2015: Sundays, July 12-August 2
10:00 AM-Noon | CLC 171-172
No Cost

Winter 2016: Sundays, January 10-31
10:00 AM-Noon | CLC 171-172
No Cost



This year's **Cookies for Troops** project was again a huge success! The **Sewing for Missions** group and friends assembled and mailed a total of 44 boxes – that's 6,178 cookies. **Judy Peters**, the cookie accountant, noted, "That count doesn't include the broken cookies we mailed. They are just as good as others and even the crumbs will be eaten." She added, "WOW. What an outpouring from church friends. The cards from the children were included in each box. They were made from their hearts. Thanks to all for making this possible!"

The generosity that MDPC is able to practice thanks to you, **our members**, continues to amaze us. **Back2Basics**, one of our Houston ministry partners, sent this letter to MDPC Local Outreach Director, Jan Roe: "Words cannot describe our gratefulness for your generous donation of \$30,000. Because of your generosity, we were able to purchase a brand new Honda Pilot, which will enable us to grow our ministry and better serve the young men and women we help through our programs. Your church continues to bless us year after year and we would not be able to be successful in reaching out to the hurting children in our community without you. You truly are the hands and feet of Jesus and we thank God for you!"



Spring Break in Galveston: On March 14, the first real day of spring weather in southeast Texas, 51 MDPC volunteers served with **Galveston Urban Ministries** (GUM). MDPC Youth worked with 60+ children in GUM's Kids' Club Saturday program while adults painted and did carpentry projects at the ministry's office on 42nd Street.

At noon, everyone, including neighborhood families, came to the Wright Cuney Rec Center for a grilled hotdog feast. Volunteers, GUM staff, and the community all had a wonderful time making new friends over lunch. Several volunteers and MDPC Youth will be going to the Island on a regular basis to serve with and support our new GUM family!

Staff Notes: In bittersweet news, three staff members were called away from MDPC this spring:



Chef Michael Lieb has been a part of MDPC since 2003, and served us well over the years, both through his tasty food and his generous servant's heart. Food Ministries continues on, though, in a slightly abbreviated format for the time being. Visit food.mdpc.org for details.



Deborah Cooper worked faithfully and quietly in Caring Ministries as a Parish Associate. She reached out and provided loving pastoral care to many at MDPC, and her compassion was much appreciated. Deborah felt called to a full-time ministerial position.



Karen Lopes was integral in MDPC's care for special needs children and she also provided leadership in Preschool Ministries. In April, she accepted a position at Chapelwood UMC as Special Needs and Disability Ministry Director. The new position involves more direct ministry to adults with special needs,

which is a particular interest and strength for Karen.

Join us in praying for our friends as they enter the next phases of their lives!

Births

- **Chase Kyle Canfield** was born December 5, 2014, to Kyle and Elizabeth Canfield, and grandparents Jana and Chase Canfield.
- **Andrew Krc Canfield** was born December 22, 2014, to Will and Blair Canfield, and grandparents Jana and Chase Canfield.
- **Hadley Jane Ellen Smith** was born March 18, 2015, to Matthew and Erica Smith, and grandparents Don and Virginia Smith.

Deaths

- **Robert Bratten**, Vernon and Bettye Bratten's son, December 18, 2014
- **Earline Benson**, December 27, 2014
- **Mark Schroeder**, Sarah and Sydney Schroeder's father, December 29, 2014
- **Connie Sabom**, December 30, 2014
- **Keith Kookan**, Craig Kookan's brother, January 4, 2015
- **Vernon Bratten, Jr.**, January 6, 2015

Continued on Page 13

May

- 3 All-Church Lunch
- 6 Decoding the Millennial Generation begins
- 13 The First Five: "7 Seeds of Promise" with Charlotte Crawford
- 13 Kids' Meals Monthly Service Project
- 17 Blood Drive
- 18 Theology On Tap
- 20 Storytellers: What I Wish I Had Known (Women's Speaker Series)
- 20 Moving Forward: Louise Hayes (grief.mdpc.org)
- 22-25 Mo-Ranch Weekend
- 24 **One 10:00 AM Worship Service**
- 25 Memorial Day: MDPC Closed
- 27 Rainbows, Real Estate, Royalty, and Redemption

June

- 3 Men's Summer Study begins: The Gospel of Christ's Kingdom
- 3 Summer Movie Series: *Paddington*
- 7 All-Church Lunch
- 10 Kids' Meals Monthly Service Project
- 13 Parents' Night Out
- 15 Theology On Tap
- 17 Summer Movie Series: *Of Gods and Men*
- 17 Moving Forward: Andrew Adair (grief.mdpc.org)

July

- 3 Independence Day Holiday: MDPC Closed
- 8 Kids' Meals Monthly Service Project
- 12 Married Life Prep begins
- 13-17 Summer Celebration: Live Like the King!
- 20 Theology On Tap
- 22 Summer Movie Series: *The Quiet Man*

August

- 5 Summer Movie Series: *Heaven Is for Real*
- 12 Kids' Meals Monthly Service Project
- 23 Kickoff Sunday

MAY 2015

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

JUNE 2015

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7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

JULY 2015

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12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

AUGUST 2015

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

Page

- **Betty Gaetz**, January 6, 2015
- **Maureen Thompson**, Laura Guthrie's mother, January 6, 2015
- **Linda Kemper**, January 8, 2015
- **Ramona Lantz Effinger**, Temple Smith's mother, January 10, 2015
- **Feliz Rivera**, Valerie Rivera's father, January 16, 2015
- **Joe Williams**, January 17, 2015
- **Tom Horton**, January 19, 2015
- **John Young**, January 20, 2015
- **Miriam Matthiesen**, January 27, 2015
- **Dustin Smith**, Ellen Brown's nephew, February 14, 2015
- **Dr. William "Bill" S. Tuttle**, February 15, 2015
- **Tom Cleveland**, February 25, 2015
- **Jamie Brooks**, March 5, 2015
- **Sally Russell**, Tracy Galimore's mother, March 6, 2015
- **Elizabeth Todd**, Lou Ann Mock's mother, March 11, 2015
- **Rachel Ashby**, Betty Lang's mother, March 12, 2015
- **Judy Deeds**, March 23, 2015
- **Ed Umbricht**, March 25, 2015
- **Forrest Moore**, April 1, 2015

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Luke Gordon

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Gena Kookan

Senior Leadership Mtn. Coordinator

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Associate Pastor for Caring Ministries

Rachel Poysky

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The Yellow School	713-784-0820
REACH Office	713-490-9564

Let's Get Social!

Visit mdpc.org to connect with us in a variety of ways: like us on Facebook, follow us on Instagram & Twitter, comment on our blog, download our App, or view recent videos.



MDPC

Memorial Drive Presbyterian Church
11612 Memorial Drive | Houston, Texas 77024

Periodical
PAID
Houston, TX

MDPC COLLEGE

Fifth Service

Our Sunday evening (5 PM) service featuring loud worship and relevant teaching

Wednesday Bible Study

The hub of our community, every Wednesday night we offer *free* dinner, *free* laughs, and *free* Bible study. Starts May 20!

WayForward

Date TBD

Trip through the mountains for an outing that combines great adventure with serious impact.

ultimate Frisbee

Each Sunday night after Fifth Service!

Lower-Division Discipleship Group

For soon-to-be college sophomores and juniors. Luke Gordon will focus this group on going deeper in their faith.

Tuesday mornings, starting May 26

Upper-Division

Discipleship Group

For graduated, soon-to-be, and super seniors. We'll focus on the transition out of college, (re)forming one's identity, and finding a career. MDPC members will offer weekly wisdom and networking opportunities. Tuesday mornings, starting May 26.



This summer, be part of the community of college students at MDPC. Join us as we eat together, learn together, grow together, and play together! Got questions? Contact Brandon Galde by email (bgaide@mdpc.org) or text (832-627-9613).