

**Friday**


**All-Church Movie Night**

**Matilda**  
(PG; 1996)

See the world from a kid's-eye view in this modern fairytale that mixes hilarious humor with a magical message of love.

**Friday, February 21**  
**6:00 PM | Amphitheater**

*Free admission, popcorn, and lemonade! Everyone is welcome.*



↑ [adults.mdpc.org](http://adults.mdpc.org)

↓ [health.mdpc.org](http://health.mdpc.org)

**MDPC Blood Drive**

**Sunday, February 23**  
**8:00 AM-2:00 PM | Fellowship Hall**

Pre-register today in the Sanctuary Lobby, or at [giveblood.org](http://giveblood.org). Walk-ins are welcome! Pre-registering helps the blood center plan for adequate staff.

He shed His blood to save me, I donate mine to serve Him.


↓ [men.mdpc.org](http://men.mdpc.org)

**MDPC Dads: Tech Tips**

We'll explore the technologies that your children interact with daily. You'll get helpful tips for discussing technology with your teen, setting healthy boundaries, and keeping up with the ever-changing tech landscape.

**Next Sunday, February 23 | 11:15 AM**  
**The Gathering Room**

*This class for fathers and father-figures is presented by Dan Aikins, Middle School Discipleship Director.*



↓ [women.mdpc.org](http://women.mdpc.org)

**Girls' Getaway**

*Live life • Love life • Speak life*

**Saturday-Sunday**  
**March 29-30**  
**With Guest Speaker**  
**Darla Baerg**

Our yearly women's retreat at Camp for All in Burton, Texas. Campfires, horseback riding, zip lines, rock wall, fun crafts, and an engaging speaker make this an unforgettable weekend for women of all ages. Come to meet a friend or make a friend!

**Contact Patty Leonard:**  
**[pleonard@mdpc.org](mailto:pleonard@mdpc.org) or**  
**713-490-0931**



**FACES and PLACES AROUND THE CROSS**

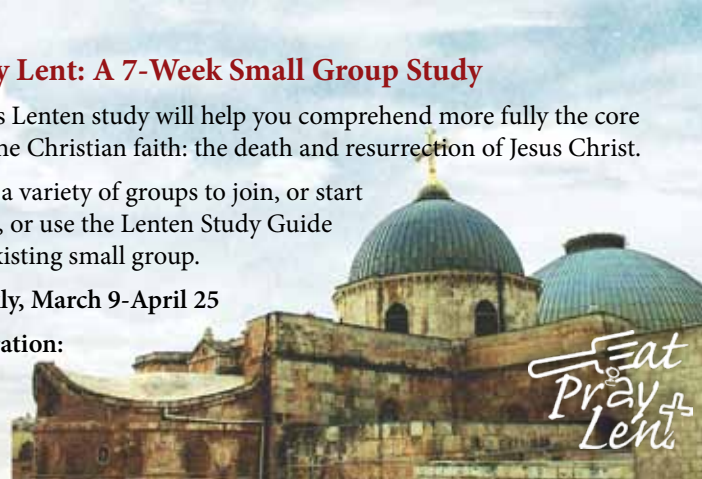
**Eat Pray Lent: A 7-Week Small Group Study**

This year's Lenten study will help you comprehend more fully the core event of the Christian faith: the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

There are a variety of groups to join, or start your own, or use the Lenten Study Guide in your existing small group.

Groups meet once weekly, March 9-April 25

Information and registration:  
[epl.mdpc.org](http://epl.mdpc.org)



↑ [epl.mdpc.org](http://epl.mdpc.org)

↓ [finearts.mdpc.org](http://finearts.mdpc.org)

**SPRING SESSION HAS BEGUN!**

**MDPC Children's Choirs**  
For Pre-K through 6th Grade • Three Groups, Divided by Age  
Wednesday Evenings

Visit [finearts.mdpc.org](http://finearts.mdpc.org) for details and to sign up!

↓ [adults.mdpc.org](http://adults.mdpc.org)

**BURGERS AND COMEDY NIGHT: MDPC SINGLES & FRIENDS**

**Friday, February 28 | 6:00 PM | Meet at Grub Burger Bar**

Join us for a burger, drink, and fun with friends. We'll meet at Grub Burger Bar in CityCentre, then walk over to ComedySportz for its team-competition, "Whose Line Is It Anyway?"-style comedy show - clean and appropriate for all audiences. Cost is \$10 plus the price of your Grub.  
RSVP to Sarah Stone: [ssone@mdpc.org](mailto:ssone@mdpc.org)



↓ [seniors.mdpc.org](http://seniors.mdpc.org)


**Venturers Presents**

**Greater Houston Convention and Visitors Bureau**

**Greg Ortale** describes how the Bureau facilitates and promotes professional sports, Broadway shows, museums, and conventions, and how these events impact Houston's economy.

**Monday, March 3 | 6:00 PM**

Social Hour, followed by Dinner & Program  
Location: Westchase Hilton  
RSVP by February 26: Chuck Edwards, 713-785-7115




Sunday, February 16, 2014

# A Faith that sings

A Sermon Series on the Music of Our Faith

*The Greatest Storyteller's Greatest Story*  
Hymn: *Amazing Grace*  
Luke 15:11-24  
Howard Edington Preaching

Please silence all devices, and refrain from consuming food or beverages during worship.



MDPC HIGHLIGHTS

Congregational Meeting

Called by MDPC's Session to approve the Pastors' Terms of Call and to elect a Children's Ministries elder.

Today, following 9:45 AM Worship | Sanctuary

Moving Forward An MDPC Care Group for Those Grieving the Loss of a Spouse

Grieving can take a long time, many times longer than one expects. It helps to have support from those who have gone through a similar experience. Losing a spouse is emotional and stressful, and it's hard to imagine a future without your soul mate. But, with support, encouragement, and listening, there is hope. Come join us for dinner, fellowship, and conversation once a month as you continue the journey of "moving forward."

Third Wednesdays at 5:45 PM | Room 101 | Next meeting: Wednesday, February 19  
Dinner will be available for purchase. Contact Bitsy Cleveland: bcleveland@mdpc.org or 713-490-9542

Opportunity to Serve on an Outreach Committee

The congregation's generous prayer, service, and financial support allows MDPC to continue partnering with hundreds of ministries in Houston and around the world. Are you interested in becoming more deeply involved? The process of prayerfully discerning, researching, and nurturing these partnerships begins in one of five committees in Outreach Ministries. We need five more volunteers to serve on the various committees.

Contact Jan Roe for more information: jroe@mdpc.org or 713-490-9552

Mo-Ranch 2014: Press On Toward the Goal

Mo-Ranch has become a highly-anticipated annual event; a time to relax and enjoy great fellowship in the Texas Hill Country. The weekend is built around Philippians 3:14 (I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus). Over the weekend, we'll look at its meaning and our personal "goals."

Memorial Day Weekend, Friday-Monday, May 23-26  
Registration opens Saturday, February 22 at 8:00 AM: mo.mdpc.org

Rooms are booked "first come, first served." Contact Vicki Levins with questions: vlevins@mdpc.org

Renovaré: A Conference for Spiritual Renewal

You'll grow in your understanding of Christian identity, community, and mission and be encouraged in your walk with God.

Thursday-Saturday, April 3-5 | First Presbyterian-Houston

Register: renovar.org (Use code HOST1413 to receive 15% off registration!)

2nd & 3rd Grade Pizza Party

Second and third graders: come eat pizza and play games with your friends! Look for information in upcoming bulletins for the fourth and fifth grade party in April.

Next Sunday, February 23 | 12:30-2:00 PM | The Galaxy (2nd Floor, Main Building)

Contact Mallory Moore: mmoore@mdpc.org or 713-490-9262

Prayer Retreat at the Museum of Fine Arts

Come spend a day at the museum finding God in beautiful works of art. The occasion is to visit the acclaimed international tour of The Age of Impressionism, featuring works by Impressionist masters like Degas, Renoir, and Sisley. This is not an art tour! In the morning, we'll have an overview of Visio Divina, or "holy seeing," a method of viewing art through prayer and meditation, then spend two to three hours prayerfully considering works of art.

Friday, March 7 | 9:30 AM-3:00 PM | MFAH | Registration deadline: February 27

Contact Mary Fuller for information: fullers1@swbell.net or 713-647-0390

Spring Break in Galveston

St. Vincent's House is a 60-year-old mission in Galveston, Texas, that provides essential services and resources to the under-served, working poor population on the Island. On our Spring Break service day, we'll tackle some repair and clean-up projects, pray with them, and host a lunch for the staff and community. All ages are invited! Children (age 5 and up) must serve with a parent or guardian.

Saturday, March 15 | 9:00 AM-1:00 PM | Galveston, Texas

Contact Valerie Rivera: vrivera@mdpc.org or 713-490-9551

MDPC WORSHIP

\* Please stand if able. CCLI # 182374

8:30 SERVICE

WELCOME		Dave Steane
*SONGS OF PRAISE	Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee O Worship the King	arr. Charlie Hall arr. Gardiner/Tomlin
*PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE OF PARDON		Brett Hurst
SONG OF PREPARATION	Your Name	arr. Baloché/Packiam
OFFERTORY	Like Incense	arr. Ligertwood/Strasser/Mullins
MESSAGE	The Greatest Storyteller's Greatest Story	Howard Edington
SONG OF RESPONSE	Amazing Grace	AMAZING GRACE

9:45 SERVICE

*SONGS OF PRAISE	O Worship the King This Is Amazing Grace	arr. Gardiner/Tomlin arr. Riddle/Farro/Wickham
*PRAYER OF CONFESSION		Vicky Jones
*SONG OF RESPONSE	Your Name (with Cry of the Broken)	arr. Baloché/Packiam/Zschech
CHILDREN'S MESSAGE		
WELCOME		Dave Steane
OFFERTORY	Like Incense	arr. Ligertwood/Strasser/Mullins
MESSAGE	The Greatest Storyteller's Greatest Story	Howard Edington
SONG OF RESPONSE	Amazing Grace (My Chains Are Gone)	arr. Tomlin/Excell/Newton/Rees/Giglio
CONGREGATIONAL MEETING		Dave Steane and Preston Moore

11:15 SERVICE

PRELUDE	Piece Heroique	César Franck
WELCOME		Vicky Jones
CHORAL INTROIT	Lend Your Voice to the Song	Carl Nygard
*HYMN OF PRAISE	Our God, Our Help in Ages Past	#210; Vs. 1, 3, 5   St. ANNE
*PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE OF PARDON		Vicky Jones
*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH	The Apostles' Creed	
*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE	The Gloria Patri	Hymn #579
ANTHEM	Greater Love Hath No Man Than This	John Ireland
OFFERTORY	Amazing Grace	arr. Jack Schrader
MESSAGE	The Greatest Storyteller's Greatest Story	Howard Edington
*HYMN OF RESPONSE	Amazing Grace	#280; Vs. 1, 2, 5   AMAZING GRACE
POSTLUDE	Fantasia in C Major	J.S. Bach

OTHER WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

SPANISH SERVICE	11:15 AM   Chapel	fuenteservice.mdpc.org
FIFTH SERVICE	5:00 PM   Chapel	fifthservice.mdpc.org

ABOUT MDPC

Coordinating Team

Mauricio Chacón | Associate Pastor for Fuente  
Howard Edington | Interim Senior Pastor  
Brandon Gaide | Next Generation Minister  
Ginny Glass | Communications & Media Dir.  
Meliza Gómez | Contemporary Music Dir.  
Luke Gordon | Youth Ministries Dir.  
Charles Hausmann | Traditional Music Dir.  
Kristin Huffman | Associate Pastor for Outreach  
Brett Hurst | Relationships Minister  
Victoria Jones | Associate Pastor for Equipping  
Gena Kookan | Sr. Leadership Ministry Coord.  
Rick Myers | Associate Pastor for Caring  
Rachel Poysky | Children's Ministries Dir.  
Becky Riggs | Business Administrator  
Dave Steane | Executive Pastor & Head of Staff  
Kathryn White | Coordinating Music Dir.  
Karen Winship | Human Resources Dir.

Dave Peterson | Pastor Emeritus  
Gary Bowker | Pastor Emeritus

MDPC Foundation  
For information, contact Business Administrator  
Becky Riggs at briggs@mdpc.org or 713-953-2570.

Ministry Partners

Pray for these MDPC partners working to make a difference in the lives of others:

**Boys and Girls Country** helps children of families in crisis by loving and nurturing them in a Christian environment, helping them grow up to become self-sustaining and contributing adults.

boysandgirlscountry.org

**Bread of Life** assists the growing number of chronically homeless individuals, 90% of whom suffer from mental illness. They offer basic necessities, a food pantry, worship services, Saturday breakfast, and apartments for transitional housing, and are an emergency shelter in inclement weather. MDPC currently is supporting The Art Project, a therapeutic art class for their homeless clients.

breadoflifeinc.org

**MDPC mission partner Reverend Dan McNerney** works with Presbyterian Frontier Fellowship to bring the Gospel to unreached people groups all over the world. Dan leads friendship groups in Chicago in which Christians, Muslims, and Jews gather to dialogue on Kingdom life, reconciliation, and the teachings of Jesus.

newsfromthefrontier.com



Please Pray

**The Red Rose is in honor of births to MDPC members:**

Bennett George Shelfer was born January 23, 2014, to Brian and Catherine Shelfer. He is the grandson of David and Lisa Shelfer, and great grandson of Claudette Shelfer.

**Recently released from the hospital:**  
Jim Kepner

**Births, Deaths, and Hospitalizations**  
Please notify Kakki Thompson in Caring Ministries of births to parents who are members, of member deaths, and of hospitalizations: kthompson@mdpc.org or 713-490-9541

WEEKLY FINANCIAL UPDATE	
OPERATING INCOME	
2014 Budget	\$ 10,550,000
Expected Income to date	\$ 1,178,271
Actual Income to Date	\$ 986,036
Current Income Deficit	\$ 192,234



## *The Greatest Storyteller's Greatest Story*

Hymn: *Amazing Grace*

Luke 15:11-24

Howard Edington Preaching

Today we continue our sermon series entitled, *A Faith That Sings*. German Protestant Reformer Martin Luther once said, *"I have no use for cranks who despise music, because it is a gift of God. Next after theology, I give to music the highest place and the greatest honor."* The power of music in Christian worship is both soul-stirring and spirit-lifting. God speaks personally and powerfully to His people through the singing of songs, which reaffirms His love and strengthens our faith.

The centerpiece of Christian theology is the affirmation of God's grace. The word *grace* means *unmerited favor*. By this we mean that God bestows His blessings upon us, not because of anything we've done, but solely because of God's benevolent nature. The Parable of the Great Banquet in Luke 15 is a powerful illustration of the nature of that grace.

A corresponding hymn to this text is John Newton's "Amazing Grace." The hymn is somewhat autobiographical of Newton's life. He had been a wretched person with the most offensive language. He had participated in the slave trades, violating the human rights of countless people. Yet, through a series of events, God transformed John Newton's heart. "Amazing Grace" is arguably the most well-known and beloved Christian hymn. It appears in more than 1,000 different hymnals, and it is estimated that it is sung more than 10 million times annually.

- In verse 11, Jesus said, *For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.* In what ways is this statement contrary to humanity's natural way of thinking? How have you seen this statement acted out by others?
- In verses 12-14, Jesus said we should go outside of our circle of friends when planning a banquet, and invite people who are needy. What principles are present in this statement? What prevents us from putting this teaching into action? Who could you invite to your next "banquet?"
- As Jesus told the Parable of the Great Banquet, He described a scene where the invited guests all gave excuses for not being able to attend. Reflect on a time when you have tried to extend an invitation to someone, only to have that invitation rejected. How did you feel? Did you ever invite them again?
- In the parable, the owner of the house shifted the invitation away from the original guests, and instructed his servant to invite the poor, crippled, blind, and lame to attend the great banquet. In its original context, the parable spoke about how Jesus' own people had rejected Him, and how God's grace was extended to people beyond the Jews. Reflect on ways this parable can take on a modern-day ethic. Who are the poor, crippled, blind, and lame for us today?
- God's grace is the foundation of this parable and really the cornerstone upon which our Christian faith is built. In what ways do you struggle with God's grace? How have you experienced this grace? How can you be an agent of God's grace in the world today?

Notes written by Executive Pastor Dave Steane