



Table Talk A Lenten Family Devotional

During Lent (March 9-April 18), make it a priority for your family to have dinner together once a week - no TV, no DS, no iPad, no distraction. At that dinner, use the MDPC app to read through that week's Table Talk devotional, pray, talk about your day, and enjoy one another. Together, celebrate your faith in the risen Jesus!

Visit children.mdpc.org for details on accessing the devotional.

Contact Rachel Poysky: rpoysky@mdpc.org or 713-490-9269

↑ children.mdpc.org

↓ seniors.mdpc.org

Prime Timers Presents

The Latest from

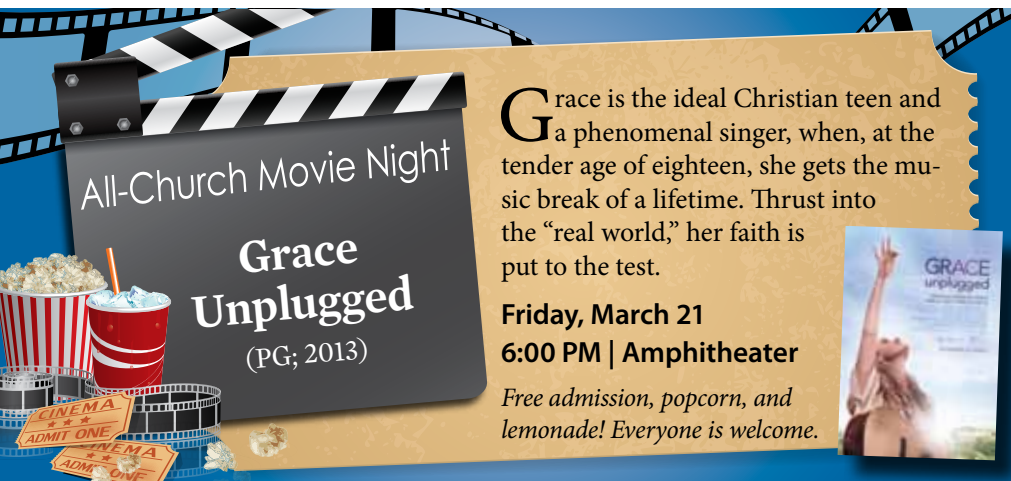
Bill Stubbs

Join us to learn about recent trends from favorite television star, author, and designer, Bill Stubbs.

Tuesday, March 18 | Fellowship Hall
Free Program at 10:30 AM

The deadline for lunch reservations has passed, but you are welcome to attend the free program! MDPC Community Lunch will be available for purchase in an adjacent room.

↓ adults.mdpc.org



All-Church Movie Night

Grace Unplugged
(PG; 2013)

Grace is the ideal Christian teen and a phenomenal singer, when, at the tender age of eighteen, she gets the music break of a lifetime. Thrust into the "real world," her faith is put to the test.

Friday, March 21
6:00 PM | Amphitheater

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

↓ spokenword.mdpc.org



During Holy Week, MDPC again will celebrate this special time of year by **reading the Bible aloud continuously from cover to cover**. Come to read. Come to listen.

Monday, April 14-Thursdays, April 17 | Chapel

Commit to one or more 15-minute increments by visiting spokenword.mdpc.org. (Registration opens March 17)

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God...



Easter Lilies

Lilies may be purchased (\$9 each) in honor or memory of a loved one. These names will be printed in the Easter worship bulletin.

The purchase deadline is Friday, April 11.

Pick up an order envelope at the Front Office or Connection Center, or visit flowers.mdpc.org.

↑ flowers.mdpc.org

↓ 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 or
713-490-0931

↓ men.mdpc.org



FAITH
ANNUAL MEN'S RETREAT

Ridin' ON

Saturday-Sunday, April 5-6
Lazy A Ranch in Fayetteville, TX

Rodeo, Great Food, Washers, Skeet Shooting, and a Sunday Morning Cowboy Church Service

With Speaker David Dendy and Musical Entertainment by Cory Morrow

Cost: \$100
(Partial scholarships available)
mensretreat.mdpc.org

↓ caring.mdpc.org

POWERFUL TOOLS FOR CAREGIVERS

An educational program designed to help family caregivers

Six Thursday Afternoons

April 10-May 15
1:00-3:00 PM | Parlor

Cost: \$25 for workbook

Contact Bitsy Cleveland:
bcleveland@mdpc.org
713-490-9542



Sunday, March 16, 2014

FACES and PLACES AROUND THE CROSS

The Roman Barracks
Matthew 27:27-31

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

MDPC HIGHLIGHTS

Help! Volunteers Needed

Second Family Ministry is in great need of volunteers to form “care teams” for MDPC members who have no family in the area and are in need of practical help, like transportation, grocery shopping, or respite care for the caregiver.

If you can offer a few hours a month for this ministry, please contact Deborah Cooper at 713-490-9540 or dcooper@mdpc.org.

Discover MDPC

Want to know more about MDPC? Interested in membership? Attend an Informational Meeting to find out more about who we are and how we operate, both in our community and around the world.

Sunday, March 30 | 10:45-11:15 AM | Gathering Room

Contact Diann Turet: dturet@mdpc.org or 713-490-9553

Walking the Mourner’s Path

Transform grief into joyful living through this eight-week, Christ-centered grief program. The group is limited to ten participants, creating a safe place to share feelings with each other and with God. Two trained facilitators, along with a pastor, will guide the group.

Tuesdays, April 1-May 20 | 3:30-5:00 PM | Chapel Bride’s Room 116

Cost: \$25 (scholarships available; no one will be turned away due to lack of funds)

To register, contact Bitsy Cleveland, LPC: bcleveland@mdpc.org or 713-490-9542

MDPC Singles & Friends: Eat and Play on the Green

Kid-friendly event, but you don’t have to have kids to come! Enjoy dinner on the patio of Ruggles Green, and the kids (and grown-ups?) can play on the CityCentre green. We’ll eat, sip our drinks, enjoy the live music, play freeze tag with the kiddos, and visit with each other.

Friday, April 4 | 5:30 PM | Ruggles Green at CityCentre

Visit singles.mdpc.org for more information. Questions? Contact Sarah Stone: sstone@mdpc.org

New Member Classes

MDPC’s New Member Class series is taught by the associate pastors and elders. The series includes a Saturday service project at one of our local mission partners.

Sundays, April 6-May 18 | Room 171-172 | 11:00 AM-12:15 PM

Contact Diann Turet: dturet@mdpc.org or 713-490-9553

Venturers: The Past, Present, & Future of the Texas Medical Center

Speaker Dr. Robert Robbins, President and CEO, reviews the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead for the Texas Medical Center.

Monday, April 7 | 6:00 PM | Westchase Hilton (9999 Westheimer)

RSVP by Wednesday, April 2 to Chuck & Linnie Edwards: 713-785-7115

Day of Quiet at Villa de Matel

Are you longing for quiet? Wanting time to be still, reflect, pray, and listen for God’s voice? Villa de Matel provides a beautiful, quiet, reverent setting to take a break from your busy schedule and spend a day of silence in God’s presence.

Thursday, April 10 | 9:00 AM-3:00 PM

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

Pastor Nominating Committee

Please pray for the committee and the congregation during this time of transition. Prayer cards are available at the Front Office.

Visit pnc.mdpc.org for updates on the committee’s progress.

Do You Know About MDPC’s 501(c)(3) Foundation?

It was founded in 1994 for accepting outright gifts and/or gifts through your last will and testament. It is not intended to conflict with normal pledges to the church budget.

Contact Becky Riggs: briggs@mdpc.org or 713-953-2570

MDPC WORSHIP

* Please stand if able.

CCLI # 182374

8:30 BLENDED SERVICE

WELCOME		Kristin Huffman
*SONGS OF PRAISE	He Is Exalted Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty	Twila Paris arr. Gómez
*PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE OF PARDON		
SONG OF PREPARATION	Hosanna	Brooke Ligertwood
OFFERTORY	All the Poor and Powerless	arr. Digital Age
MESSAGE	Roman Barracks: Human Cruelty and God’s Gentleness	Howard Edington
SONG OF RESPONSE	How Great Thou Art	O STORE GUD

9:45 CONTEMPORARY SERVICE

*SONGS OF PRAISE	Love Goes On Hosanna	Davies/Hobbs/Toggs Brooke Ligertwood
*PRAYER OF CONFESSION		Christyn Knoop
BAPTISMS	Brooks Christopher Dawson, son of Aaron and Amanda Dawson Cooper Wayne Long, son of Michael and Holly Long	Howard Edington

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE		
WELCOME		Kristin Huffman
OFFERTORY	All the Poor and Powerless	arr. Digital Age
MESSAGE	Roman Barracks: Human Cruelty and God’s Gentleness	Howard Edington
SONG OF RESPONSE	How Great Thou Art	arr. Baloché

11:15 TRADITIONAL SERVICE

PRELUDE	My Song Is Love Unknown	arr. Burkhardt
WELCOME		Kristin Huffman
CHORAL INTROIT	Create in Me a Clean Heart, O God	Carl Mueller
*CALL TO WORSHIP		
*HYMN OF PRAISE	My Song Is Love Unknown	#76; Vs. 1, 2, 5 LOVE UNKNOWN
*PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE OF PARDON		
*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH		from the United Church of Canada
*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE	In the Cross of Christ, I Glory	#84; Vs. 2 RATHBUN
ANTHEM	Alas! and Did My Savior Bleed	arr. Craig Courtney
BAPTISM	Ellie Leigh Martin, daughter of Mitch and Robyn Martin	Howard Edington
CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE		
OFFERTORY	Excerpts from Messiah Cassandra Black and Brian Yeakley, soloists	G. F. Handel
MESSAGE	Roman Barracks: Human Cruelty and God’s Gentleness	Howard Edington
*HYMN OF RESPONSE	How Great Thou Art	#467; Vs. 1 & 3 O STORE GUD
POSTLUDE	Lenten Meditation	Sir Walford Davies

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:

Candlelighters Childhood Cancer Family Alliance offers emotional, educational, and practical support to children with cancer and their families. It also provides Medical Center parking vouchers, an expense that is one of the biggest concerns these parents face.
candle.org

Casa de Esperanza de los Niños is a loving home for children in crisis due to drug abuse, neglect, or the effects of HIV.
casahope.org

One MDPC partner family living in South Asia is developing a team that reaches out to locals to train them in website development, while strategically building relationships for the Kingdom. Please pray for God to cover this family, to keep them safe and healthy, and to strengthen them as they reveal Christ’s grace by building relationships and sharing stories of Jesus in an oral culture.



Praises and Prayers

Today’s Chancel Flowers are given:

- In honor and celebration of Tommie Jaksa on her 90th birthday, with love and gratitude from TJ, Al, Judie, and their families.
- By Virginia Upchurch, wishing her daughters, Martha Blecher and Molly Tipton, very happy St. Patrick’s Day birthdays.

MDPC members recently released from the hospital:

- Steve Roskamp

The White Rose is in memory of MDPC members who recently passed away:

- Leslie Bell, February 22, 2014
- Robert Quarles, March 2, 2014
- C. B. “Bill” Walkinshaw, March 5, 2014
- Anne Snellgrove, March 6, 2014

WEEKLY FINANCIAL UPDATE	
OPERATING INCOME	
2014 Budget	\$ 10,550,000
Expected Income to date	\$ 1,889,238
Actual Income to Date	\$ 1,738,880
Current Income Deficit	\$ 150,358

FACES and PLACES AROUND THE CROSS

THE ROMAN BARRACKS: HUMAN CRUELTY AND GOD'S GENTLENESS

Matthew 27:27-31

Howard Edington Preaching

What a dark passage of Scripture. It's easy to read this part of Matthew's account and feel sorry for Jesus, point the finger at the Roman soldiers for their unyielding mockery, and be glad we weren't the ones responsible. But the truth is that we are just as capable of this kind of cruelty. Deep down, our hearts are just as full of sin and rebellion as the soldiers.

This passage compels us to look at ourselves and identify our own depravity. Where does it come from? And for what purpose do we engage in our own version of mockery? For sport? Approval from the "crowd"? Asserting power over another? What drives us to be so...mean?

But the passage also assures and encourages us that not only do we have a model of gentleness and grace in the face of punishing cruelty, but we also have a Savior. A SAVIOR! And doesn't our aptitude for unkindness show us just how much we need to be saved?

Jesus isn't just a neat guy with some cool ideas for living a good life – He's the healer of our brokenness. Christ endured the severest of mockery and shame, and even gave up His own life so that we may be freed from the punishment of our depravity. Praise be to God!

- Read the passage again. Theologians estimate that as many as 500 soldiers were mocking Christ. Try to envision the scene. What do you imagine Jesus was thinking? What about God, His Father, who was watching from Heaven? What do you think your own reaction would have been if you were there?
- The crown of thorns is such a widely known picture and symbol that we may not often dwell on the meaning of it. The scarlet robe, the fake "scepter," and this "crown" are all parts of a mock enthronement. But, while they could've used any material for the counterfeit crown, they chose something painful to further injure and tease Jesus. What was the soldiers' motivation for putting the crown of thorns on His head? What does it signify for us that He wore them on the way to die?
- It's easy to think we aren't as bad as the Roman soldiers, but our modernity doesn't spare us from being just as sinful and cruel as those who mocked Christ. The corruption of our human nature is the same now as it was when Jesus was on the way to the cross, it just often looks different. Do you agree? What evidence do you see for human nature being fundamentally corrupted? What are some everyday behaviors that demonstrate this? How do we change?
- Not only did Christ endure a violent and humiliating trial, but God also didn't send in reinforcements or rescue Him from a brutal death. This "defeat" of God's Son is a huge stumbling block to people in some parts of the world who can't understand a God who would endure such shame. And yet the death – and resurrection! – of Jesus is the single most important event in the history of the world. In your own words, why did Jesus have to die? Why didn't God swoop in and save Him? Would a dramatic display of power on God's part have rendered sin powerless over His beloved creation?
- Read Philippians 2:1-11. What do we learn from Christ's example of humility? Have you ever been so moved by the Gospel (the Good News of Jesus taking away our punishment by dying in our place) to suffer in someone else's place? What small or not-so-small ways might we use our freedom in Christ to help free others?

Today's Sermon Notes are adapted from *Eat Pray Lent: Faces and Places Around the Cross* Study Guide. Visit epl.mdpc.org for more information or to participate in the Lenten Small Group Study.