



MDPC Blog

In this week's post, Brandon Gaide reflects on the future of the Church.

Visit mdpcblog.org, or access the blog through the MDPC app:



↑ mdpcblog.org

↓ singles.mdpc.org



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 City-Centre 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-CityCentre

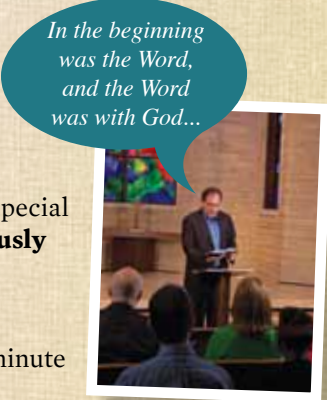
↓ spokenword.mdpc.org



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-Thursday, April 17 | Chapel

Registration is now open! Commit to one or more 15-minute increments by visiting spokenword.mdpc.org.



↓ retreats.mdpc.org

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.

Information and registration: retreats.mdpc.org

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

Cost: \$35 (includes lunch)



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



↓ 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



MDPC
Memorial Drive
Presbyterian Church

The Third Sunday of Lent
March 23, 2014

FACES and PLACES AROUND THE CROSS

Simon of Cyrene
Mark 15:21-24

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, please contact Deborah Cooper: dcooper@mdpc.org or 713-490-9540

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

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

Built to Last: Fostering Resiliency in Children & Adolescents

Presented by Jill Gilbert, MA, LPC, LMFT, as part of the Purely Parenting class series, for any adults who are currently in the parenting trenches. These stand-alone discussions are opportunities for the exchange of new ideas and proven strategies. No cost!

Sunday, April 6 | 11:15 AM | Amphitheater

Contact Patty Leonard: pleonard@mdpc.org or 713-490-0931

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

MDPC Concert Series: Mercury Vivaldi Extravaganza

Mercury, downtown Houston’s Baroque orchestra, performs concertos and sinfonias by Antonio Vivaldi, one of the greatest and most well-known baroque composers of all time. This is a can’t-miss opportunity to hear more from the versatile composer of the *Four Seasons*.

Saturday, April 12 | 2:30 PM | Chapel

Tickets may be purchased at the door, at mercuryhouston.org, or by contacting the Mercury Office at 713-533-0080. For information about the Concert Series, visit concerts.mdpc.org.

Pizza Party for 4th & 5th Grade

Come eat pizza and play games with your friends!

Saturday, April 12 | 6:00-8:30 PM

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

Prime Timers presents Stepping Out in Style

Join us for the annual Prime Timers Spring Fashion Show featuring the newest fashions and colors from Coldwater Creek.

Tuesday, April 15 | Fellowship Hall | Free Program 10:30 AM, Lunch (\$9.50) Noon

Your check (\$9.50) is your lunch reservation. Checks made out to MDPC must be received at the Front Office by Wednesday, April 9.

MDPC WORSHIP

* Please stand if able.

CCLI # 182374

8:30 BLENDED SERVICE

WELCOME		Vicky Jones
*SONGS OF PRAISE	<i>O for a Thousand Tongues</i> <i>Be Thou My Vision</i>	arr. Crowder arr. Gómez
*PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE OF PARDON		
SONG OF PREPARATION	<i>Your Great Name</i>	Nordhoff/Neale
OFFERTORY	<i>Song of Hope</i>	Robbie Seay
MESSAGE	<i>Simon of Cyrene: The Backside of Calvary</i>	Howard Edington
SONG OF RESPONSE	<i>Here I Am, Lord</i>	Daniel Schutte

9:45 CONTEMPORARY SERVICE

*SONGS OF PRAISE	<i>Song of Hope</i> <i>O for a Thousand Tongues</i>	Robbie Seay arr. Crowder
*PRAYER OF CONFESSION		Christyn Knoop
*SONG OF PRAISE	<i>Your Great Name</i>	Nordhoff/Neale
WELCOME		Vicky Jones
OFFERTORY	<i>Be Thou My Vision</i>	arr. Gómez
MESSAGE	<i>Simon of Cyrene: The Backside of Calvary</i>	Howard Edington
SONG OF RESPONSE	<i>Here I Am, Lord</i>	Daniel Schutte

11:15 TRADITIONAL SERVICE

PRELUDES	<i>Psalms Preludes (Psalm 5:3 and 150:6)</i>	Douglas Wagner
WELCOME		Vicky Jones
CHORAL INTROIT	<i>Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven</i>	Carl Freeman
*CALL TO WORSHIP		
*HYMN OF PRAISE	<i>Go to Dark Gethsemane</i>	#97; Vs. 1, 3, 4 REDHEAD 76
*PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE OF PARDON		
*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH	The Apostles’ Creed	
*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE	<i>In the Cross of Christ I Glory</i>	#84; Vs. 3 RATHBUN
ANTHEM	<i>Behold the Lamb of God (from Messiah)</i>	G. F. Handel
OFFERTORY	<i>Beneath the Cross of Jesus</i>	Benjamin Harlan
MESSAGE	<i>Simon of Cyrene: The Backside of Calvary</i>	Howard Edington
*HYMN OF RESPONSE	<i>Here I Am, Lord</i>	#525; Vs. 1-2 Daniel Schutte
POSTLUDE	<i>Rigaudon</i>	André Campira

OTHER WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

SPANISH SERVICE	11:15 AM Chapel	fuentes.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:

Center for Student Missions provides visiting groups effective urban mission and service experiences that transform lives, advance the church, and honor Jesus Christ.

csm.org

Child Advocates trains and supports volunteer caseworkers to handle court-appointed abuse and neglect cases of Houston children. In 2013, they helped more than 2,250 children, but there are thousands more young victims lost in the system that need advocates.

childadvocates.org

African Enterprise (AE) shares the love of Jesus with every age and socioeconomic class so all will know the hope Christ offers. Through evangelism, reconciliation, leadership development training, relief, and community development, AE ministers to often overlooked community crises, such as AIDS, infant mortality, street children, and polluted water. They give prostitutes and single mothers vocational direction by teaching them to sew. MDPC partners with AE in an HIV and immunization initiative in Kampala, Uganda.

africanenterprise.org



Community Life Center (CLC)
Amphitheater
Gym
Youth (The Loft)
Adult Studies

Chapel
8:30 AM Worship
11:15 AM Adoración
5:00 PM Fifth Service

Ministry Center
Front Office
Adult Studies
Preschool (Ark)
Elementary (Galaxy)
Summit Room
Fellowship Hall

Sanctuary
Connection Center
Gathering Room

Praises and Prayers

Today’s Chancel Flowers are given:

- by Marc and Debbie Irvin, in memory of Marc’s father, Donald Irvin, who passed away March 2, 2014.

Chancel flower dedications may be made for a \$50 contribution. Visit the Front Office to sign up! Your dedication will be printed here on the Sunday of your choice (some exceptions apply).

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.

Births, Deaths, and Hospitalizations

Please notify Kakki Thompson in Caring Ministries of births to parents who are MDPC 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	\$ 2,048,104
Actual Income to Date	\$ 1,835,186
Current Income Deficit	\$ 212,918

FACES and PLACES AROUND THE CROSS

SIMON OF CYRENE: THE BACKSIDE OF CALVARY

Mark 15:21-24 | Howard Edington Preaching

This week's passage contains Mark's account of Jesus' death on the cross: *And they compelled a passerby, Simon of Cyrene, who was coming in from the country, the father of Alexander and Rufus, to carry His cross. And they brought Him to the place called Golgotha (which means Place of a Skull). And they offered Him wine mixed with myrrh, but He did not take it. And they crucified*

Him and divided His garments among them, casting lots for them, to decide what each should take.

Take a moment to find the reference to Jesus' death in the passage. Notice that the only information Mark gives us about Jesus' suffering and death is summed up in three words: "they crucified Him." To fill in the details, scholars use historical writings about the Roman practice of crucifixion. While the details of Christ's suffering often lead us to profound emotional responses of grief and sadness, Mark's *lack* of detail causes one to wonder whether his goal may be not so much to produce in us certain feelings and sentiments, but rather to teach us the truth and the meaning of the cross.

Today we will see how two young men witness to the truth of the cross, and how the soldiers (the "they" in the passage) witness to the meaning of the cross (witness, in this case, meaning to "give a firsthand account of something seen, heard, or experienced"). May God use this passage to influence our own witness of Christ's Kingdom in the world!

- Our passage begins with Simon, a hapless passerby from Cyrene, being drafted by the soldiers to carry Jesus' cross. Jesus needed help. Are you more comfortable asking others for help, or being the one who helps others? In other words, would you rather be the helper, or the helpee?
- Most likely, Simon was visiting Jerusalem during Passover as a pilgrim from his city on the coast of North Africa. He was probably not acquainted with Jesus and had little desire to carry a 300-pound crossbeam for a condemned Roman prisoner! On the other hand, his sons, Rufus and Alexander, were obviously known in the early church because Mark refers to them by name. Many scholars assume that Simon came to faith through the act of carrying Jesus' cross, and, by the time Mark writes his gospel 40 years later, Simon's sons were known members of the Jerusalem church. Simon was forced by the soldiers to carry the cross. How has your faith grown because of something you were forced to do or to endure?
- At the time the Gospel of Mark was written in about 70 A.D., there were many first and second-generation eyewitnesses to the events of Jesus' death and resurrection. There was Simon of Cyrene and Rufus and Alexander; Joseph of Arimathea, who placed Jesus in the tomb; the women at the tomb, Joanna and the three Marys, who were witnesses to the resurrection; and the disciples. All of these folks repeated over and over again what they had seen until Mark finally wrote it down. In recording the many specific names, Mark is saying, "Hey, you can check it out with these folks in our little church community! It really happened!" What are some common questions people have about the reliability of the Bible, especially about what happened at the cross and the empty tomb? What would it take for you to feel prepared to answer some of these questions?
- It's been said, "Wherever sin is, a penalty must be paid." Stop a minute to consider: Who pays the price if a parent or spouse lashes out in anger and criticism? Who pays the price if someone gossips or steals? Jesus volunteered to pay the price for sin so that we – both as sinner and as one who has been sinned against – can stop paying the price of condemnation.

Consider the story of "Barry." Barry is a young man with a good education and a promising future. Yet Barry is haunted by memories of how he, on the first day of getting his first car, accidentally hit a pedestrian while making a fast turn. Barry has ongoing work issues. He has substance abuse issues. His supervisor says there's no reason he can't succeed, except that he lacks motivation. Deep down, Barry does not believe he deserves to succeed. In your own words, describe how the theology of the cross applies to Barry.

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.