

All-Church Lunch

Today in Fellowship Hall
11:00 AM-1:00 PM

Come enjoy grilled salmon or roasted chicken (\$10, includes sides), or jumbo shrimp cocktail salad (\$8.50). Hamburgers (\$4) are available for kids. Meals include a drink and dessert.

In celebration of Dr. and Mrs. Edington's 50th wedding anniversary on December 29, we will enjoy cake and share a moment of recognition.

Join us - everyone is welcome!

↑ food.mdpc.org

↓ concerts.mdpc.org



Contemporary Works for Chorus and Orchestra

MDPC Concert Series 2014-2015

The prolific K. Lee Scott and distinguished symphonic composer Christopher Rouse will be featured in this all-American holiday concert! Scott's *Christmas Cantata* is a glorious proclamation of the season, while Rouse's *Karolli*, based on original music, captures the charm of centuries-old international Christmas carols.

Tonight!
7:00 PM | Sanctuary
Free Admission

↓ local.mdpc.org

Kids' Meals

Monthly Service Opportunity

Help us feed the nearly 2,200 preschool children Kids' Meals delivers to daily. MDPC volunteers are instrumental in providing one day's delivery per month! Please bring two loaves of white or wheat sandwich bread to the project.

Wednesday, December 10
5:00 PM | Fellowship Hall

↓ holiday.mdpc.org

Christmas Coffee

Sponsored by MDPC Women

Celebrate the Christmas season with coffee, tea, wassail, and warm fellowship at the annual Christmas Coffee, an MDPC tradition. All women are welcome! Bring your mothers, daughters, sisters, and friends.

This Tuesday, December 9
9:00-11:00 AM • MDPC Parlor

Childcare available by reservation: childcare@mdpc.org

↑ holiday.mdpc.org

↓ missionmarket.mdpc.org



Mission Market Christmas Cards
Visit us today in the Lobby!

What do you call an elf wearing ear muffs?
Anything you want - he can't hear you.

Can you believe it's already December 7?
Stop by Mission Market to get all your Christmas shopping done in one place!

You also can shop online:
missionmarket.mdpc.org

↓ mlp.mdpc.org



Getting ready for a lifetime commitment...

Married Life Prep

A fun, four-week course for engaged and newly married couples.

SUNDAYS, JANUARY 4-25, 2015
10:00 AM-12:00 PM

Visit mlp.mdpc.org to register!

↓ parenting.mdpc.org



Parent Palooza

Free Event!
register.mdpc.org

Enjoy great keynote speakers, then dig deeper in breakout sessions on parenting topics.

January 9-10 (Friday PM & Saturday AM)

Childcare available by reservation:
childcare@mdpc.org

Sunday, December 7, 2014



CALL *Him*
BY HIS *Name*

Mighty God!
It Would Take a Jesus
to Invent a Jesus
JOHN 10:22-39

MDPC HIGHLIGHTS

Congregational Meeting

For the purpose of electing Relationships and Children’s Ministries elders, class of 2017.
Sunday, December 14 | Following 9:45 AM Service | Sanctuary

Christmas Greenery

It’s the Boy Scouts’ annual Christmas greenery sale. Stop by to support MDPC’s Troop 642.
Today between services | Sanctuary Breezeway

Safe Haven Support Group

Safe Haven is a ministry that supports individuals and families involved in foster care, kinship care, and adoption. We meet the second Monday of every month. A light meal will be provided (please RSVP at least two days prior so we can include you in our dinner order).

Monday, December 8 | 6:00-8:00 PM | Room 122

Contact Ann Rome to RSVP for dinner: mdpcsafehaven@gmail.com

Free childcare available by reservation: childcare@mdpc.org or 713-490-9266

MDPC Singles & Friends: Pub Trivia

Join us as we put our knowledge of geography, science, pop culture, and useless minutiae to use competing against other teams, and eating and laughing while we play!

Tuesday, December 9 | 6:30 PM at The Bull & Bear

Contact Sarah Stone: sstone@mdpc.org

Breathe, Pray, Listen

Learn about exemplars of the faith (St. Patrick of Ireland, St. Benedict, Hildegard of Bingen, Francis of Assisi, Ignatius of Loyola, Francis de Sales), then participate in one of the spiritual practices. MDPC Associate Pastor Kristin Huffman leads.

Wednesday, December 10 | Noon or 6:30 PM | Summit Room

No cost; lunch/dinner will be available for purchase.

Prime Timers Annual Christmas Luncheon & Gift Exchange

Join us at the charming Cafe Benedicte for a delicious luncheon. Please bring a wrapped \$5-10 gift for a grab-bag gift exchange. Gifts may be stolen no more than three times!

Friday, December 12 | 11:30 AM | \$25/person

Contact Tammy Allyn: uwphoto.2@sbcglobal.net or 281-493-6883

The Daniel Plan

Get 2015 started out right by studying what the Bible says about healthy living. Come and explore the groundbreaking healthy lifestyle program that could change your life – inside and out. This fast-paced six-week class is based on Rick Warren’s *The Daniel Plan*.

Sundays, January 11-February 15 | 9:45-10:45 AM | Summit Room

Contact Kay Atchison: kamatchison@yahoo.com

Celebrate Recovery Step Study Group

Come join us for a light dinner, fellowship, and small group study. This is a recovery program based on eight principles from the Beatitudes.

Tuesdays, 6:30-8:30 PM | Rooms 217-219

Contact Rick Myers (rmyers@mdpc.org) or Bitsy Cleveland (bcleveland@mdpc.org).

Got Fruit? Give Fruit!

Do you have a fruit tree? Can’t reach the high-hanging fruit or use all your tree provides? Let us know. We will pick the fruit, leave some for you, and donate the rest to MDPC’s Food Pantry. Fruit Share Houston rescues fresh local fruit that may otherwise go to waste.

To register your tree, participate in harvesting, or make a monetary donation, contact Marsha Hartsell: marsha.hartsell@gmail.com, 281-827-7016

We Need You to Partner With Us In Prayer

By being a Partner In Prayer, you turn your heart toward God for a few minutes each day as you pray for others. Your participation is such a blessing to the MDPC family!

More info and registration at pip.mdpc.org, or call Annette Erickson: 713-490-9541

MDPC WORSHIP

8:30 BLENDED SERVICE

WELCOME		Dave Steane
*SONGS OF PRAISE	<i>Angels We Have Heard on High</i>	GLORIA
	<i>Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty</i>	arr. Gómez
*PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE OF PARDON		Vicky Jones
GIFTS OF GRATITUDE	<i>What a Glorious Night</i>	arr. McDonald/Brown/Frey/Smith
MESSAGE	Mighty God: It Would Take a Jesus to Invent a Jesus	Howard Edington
SONG OF RESPONSE		
CELEBRATION OF THE LORD’S SUPPER		
COMMUNION MEDITATION	<i>Improvisations on Familiar Christmas Carols</i>	Louise Trotter, harp

9:45 CONTEMPORARY SERVICE

*SONGS OF PRAISE		
*PRAYER OF CONFESSION		Brandon Gaide
GIFTS OF GRATITUDE		Dave Steane
MESSAGE	Mighty God: It Would Take a Jesus to Invent a Jesus	Howard Edington
SONG OF RESPONSE		
CELEBRATION OF THE LORD’S SUPPER		
COMMUNION MEDITATION	<i>Improvisations on Familiar Christmas Carols</i>	Louise Trotter, harp

11:15 TRADITIONAL SERVICE

PRELUDES	<i>Joy to the World</i>	arr. MacDonald
	<i>Angels We Have Heard on High</i>	arr. Trotter
	Louise Trotter, harp	
WELCOME		Dave Steane
*CALL TO WORSHIP		
*CHORAL INTROIT	<i>E'en So, Lord Jesus, Quickly Come</i>	Paul Manz (1919-2009)
*HYMN OF PRAISE	<i>O Come, O Come, Emmanuel</i>	#9; Vs. 1, 3 VENI EMMANUEL
*PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE OF PARDON		Vicky Jones
*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH	from Romans 8	
*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE	<i>Angels We Have Heard on High</i>	#23; Vs. 2 GLORIA
OFFERTORY	<i>Let All Mortal Flesh (from Glad Tidings)</i>	Randol Bass (b. 1953)
MESSAGE	Mighty God: It Would Take a Jesus to Invent a Jesus	Howard Edington
*HYMN OF PRAISE	<i>Joy to the World</i>	#40; Vs. 1-2 ANTIOCH
CELEBRATION OF THE LORD’S SUPPER		
COMMUNION MEDITATIONS	<i>Love Came Down at Christmas (from The Incarnation)</i>	K. Lee Scott (b. 1950)
	<i>Christmas Meditation</i>	Louise Trotter, harp
POSTLUDE	<i>O Come, O Come, Emmanuel</i>	arr. Wetherill

*Please stand if able. CCLI # 182374

Communion is shared by intinction. All who confess their faith in Christ are welcome to the table. As directed by the ushers, come forward to the communion stations at the front of the section where you are seated. Dip the bread in the cup and eat, before returning to your seat.

Gluten-free bread is available. If you are celiac or severely gluten-intolerant, please note that it may have come into contact with gluten-containing bread during preparation of the sacrament.

Every child is an important part of our community of faith. We believe that each family decides when their child is ready to participate in communion. Children not taking communion are invited to come forward during the Lord’s Supper to receive a blessing from the pastors and elders who are serving.

MDPC INFO

Coordinating Team

Mauricio Chacón | Associate Pastor for Fuente
Howard Edington | Interim Senior Pastor
Brandon Gaide | Associate Pastor for Next Gen
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 Kooken | 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:

The Woods Project develops leadership and life skills in low-income youth through outdoor education/environmental awareness programs. It prepares students for college and beyond by encouraging interest in science and nature, and expanding their experience through exposure to challenging situations and diverse environments. thewoodsproject.org

Nearly 90% of diseases in the world stem from unsafe drinking water. Pray that God would give people without access to clean water new hope as **Living Water International** drills water wells in their communities. Contact MDPC if you would like to join a mission team. water.cc

In the **Los Guido** community in Costa Rica, MDPC supports a children’s ministry and feeding program led by Pastor Dorotea. It gives families access to medical care on a sliding payment scale, and teaches life skills and Kingdom values. Please pray that children in these communities would know that a loving God cherishes them, would feel His protection and provision, and would grow to realize His purpose for their lives.



Poinsettias for the Sanctuary and Chapel

The poinsettias that adorn the chancels in December may be dedicated in honor or memory of a loved one (\$8/dedication). The names will be printed in the Christmas Eve bulletin. *Order by Friday, December 12: flowers.mdpc.org*

Praises & Prayers

Senior Pastor Nominating Committee
Please pray for the committee and the congregation during this time of transition. Prayer cards are available at the Connection Center. *Visit pnc.mdpc.org for updates.*

What Lies Ahead

As we reflect on our denominational alignment, please pray for peace in the hearts of your fellow MDPC family members, and sage discernment for our leadership. *Visit denom-issues.mdpc.org for information.*

WEEKLY FINANCIAL UPDATE		
OPERATING INCOME		
2014 Budget	\$	10,550,000
Expected Income to Date	\$	7,588,496
Actual Income to Date	\$	7,164,780
Current Income Deficit	\$	423,716



MDPC

Loving God. Proclaiming Christ. Living Generously. Engaging All.

11612 Memorial Drive | Houston, Texas 77024 | mdpc.org | 713-782-1710

Sunday, December 7, 2014

Mighty God!

John 10:22-39

Advent is the season when we prepare to celebrate the coming of Jesus Christ, God's Son, and Savior to those who believe. The coming of Jesus Christ was one of the most anticipated and prophesied events in human history. Most notably, the prophet Isaiah foretold of Jesus when he said in Isaiah 9:6:

*For to us a Child is born, to us a Son is given,
and the government will be on His shoulders.*

*And He will be called
Wonderful Counselor,
Mighty God,
Everlasting Father,
Prince of Peace.*

The Gospel of John captures brilliantly these majestic names of our Messiah and Savior, Jesus Christ. During Advent, we will look at a different passage from John's Gospel, and unpack the glory of the Name of Jesus. Today, we focus on Jesus' encounter with His disciples in John 16:25-33.

- Jesus was the Master Teacher. He gave His disciples just enough about Himself to pique their curiosity, but then they had to cogitate on Him in order to fit the pieces together and truly understand Jesus. Jesus alluded to this in verse 25 when He said, *"Though I have been speaking figuratively..."* In what ways has something Jesus said piqued your curiosity, but you had to work hard in order to grasp it? What are some advantages of having to work out understanding on your own?
- Notice the cause and effect relationship in verse 27. Jesus said, *"the Father Himself loves you because you have loved Me..."* In what ways have you experienced God's love as a result of your loving Jesus Christ? How does this affect the way you related to Jesus? What are the practical implications of God's love in your life?
- The disciples expressed their appreciation for Jesus' clarity and simplicity in verse 29, and this made them believe that Jesus came from God. What convincing proofs can you think of that make you believe in Jesus? What do you think is the most compelling proof that Jesus is the Son of God and Savior of those who believe?
- In verses 31 and 32, Jesus foretold that the disciples would scatter and leave Him all alone. This, of course, happened as He was arrested and crucified. Have you ever scattered from Jesus? What things can make us want to leave Him alone?
- In verse 33, Jesus said, *"I have told you these things, so that in Me you may have peace."* Peace is best understood as much more than just the absence of conflict. It is a state of the soul, which affirms that there's confidence and hope because of God's sovereign will. How would you assess the level of peace in your life? Jesus said, *"But take heart! I have overcome the world."* Where in your life do you need to *take heart*? What difference does it make to you that Jesus has overcome the world?

Digging Deeper is written by Executive Pastor, Dave Steane. It explores Dr. Edington's weekly Scripture passage selection, but not necessarily his sermon message.

2014 Year-end Contributions

Take a look at these notes to help insure that your year-end contributions will be deductible for the 2014 tax year.

Cash or Checks:

- The Front Office will be open to receive contributions from 8:30 AM to 5:00 PM on December 31. The Prayer Chapel dropbox will be accessible until 10:00 PM.
- Please do not assume that checks dated on or before December 31, 2014, are deductible for 2014. Contributions must be postmarked on or before December 31, or physically received by MDPC at Front Office by 5:30 PM or Prayer Chapel dropbox by 10:00 PM on December 31 in order to be included on your 2014 contribution statement.

Stock & Securities: Please contact Ava Caliendo (acaliendo@mdpc.org, 713-953-2574) for transfer instructions. Transfers must be initiated by your broker no later than December 31 to be included in your 2014 contributions. **If you have made a gift of stock in December but have not contacted Ava Caliendo, please do so as soon as possible.**

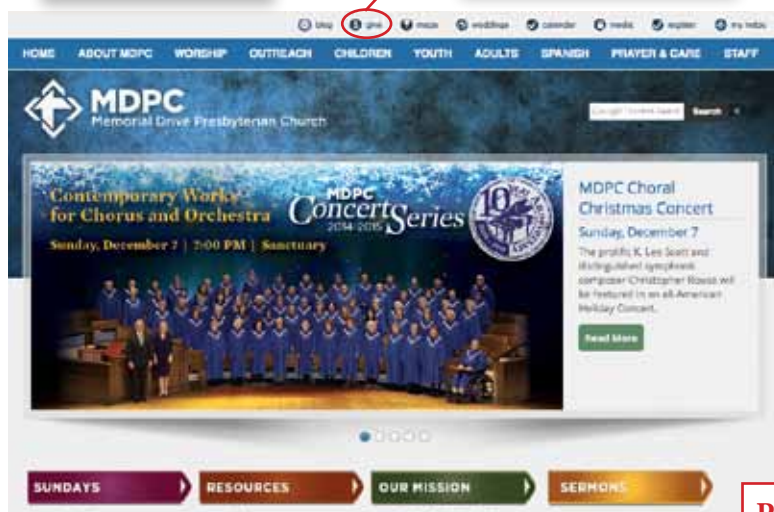
Online Contributions: MDPC now offers the convenience of online giving with a credit card, debit card, or eCheck. Visit give.mdpc.org and follow the link to “online giving,” or follow the instructions below. Contributions for 2014 may be made online until the end of the day on December 31. **If you plan on making a contribution in an amount that may be questioned by your bank or credit card company, contact them in advance to insure that they do not reject the transaction as part of their fraud prevention measures.**

Step One

Go to mdpc.org

Step Two

Click on the GIVE link



**Proceed with
ONLINE GIVING**