

This Wednesday!

Encouraged, but not Required:

A Yuletide Sing-a-long!

We'll sing popular Christmas songs – both old and new. So bring the whole family and enjoy the sounds of the season!

Wednesday, December 17
7:00 PM | Chapel
Led by Meliza Gómez

↑ holiday.mdpc.org ↓ bind.mdpc.org

Mission Market Christmas Cards

Visit us today in the Lobby!

What do angry mice send to each other at Christmas? ...wait for it... *Cross Mouse Cards*.

Can you believe it's already December 14? Stop by Mission Market to get all your Christmas shopping done in one place!

You also can shop online:
missionmarket.mdpc.org

↑ missionmarket.mdpc.org ↓ blog.mdpc.org

The Challenge:

To read attentively every word of the Bible in 90 days.

bind.mdpc.org

B90 READ THE BIBLE

Sunday Mornings
9:45 or 11:15 AM
 or Wednesday Evenings
6:30 PM

↓ cbgr.mdpc.org

How to Be a Millennial and a Christian

The Church as an institution struggles to connect with Millennials. Brandon Gaide's latest blog in this five-part series details why this is not surprising.

Visit blog.mdpc.org, or read it in the mobile app (app.mdpc.org).

↑ missionmarket.mdpc.org ↓ mlp.mdpc.org

THE 3RD ANNUAL CHILI, BBQ, GUMBO, ROADKILL COOK-OFF

SPONSORED BY MDPC RELATIONSHIPS MINISTRIES & CITY OF SPRING VALLEY VILLAGE

COOK-OFF 2015

SATURDAY, JANUARY 31
 2:00-6:00 PM | Spring Valley Village City Park on Campbell
 Register at cbgr.mdpc.org (\$35 fee/per team)

↓ retreats.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

Monet and the Seine

Prayer Retreat at Museum of Fine Arts Houston

Friday, January 23
9:30 AM-2:30 PM
 Meet at First Pres. at 9:30 AM.

Admission:
 \$23/Adults; free for members
 \$8/Seniors 65+

Join us as we prayerfully enjoy God's creation of water and light through the MFAH Monet exhibition. The day will include:

- an overview of Visio Divina or "holy seeing"
- free time at the museum for viewing other works;
- lunch on your own (buy or bring), and
- a time of sharing observations and reflections.

retreats.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 14, 2014

CALL Him BY HIS Name

Everlasting Father!

The Apple Doesn't Fall Far from the Tree

John 14:7-14

MDPC HIGHLIGHTS

Congregational Meeting Today

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

MDPC's Toy Train Will Be Leaving the Station

Christmas is around the corner! Share God's blessings with children who are less fortunate by giving through MDPC's Toy Train. The gifts are distributed by our Mobile Unit crew in inner city and Spring Branch neighborhoods. They give the toys to children on their routes, in addition to offering the very affordable clothing and home items always available.
Drop off new, unwrapped toys in the Toy Train until Tuesday, December 16!

Purely Parenting

Single parents and step-families: Find empowerment, peace, and balance for yourself and your family in the New Year! Speaker Jayna Haney of The Bridge Across for Single Parents and Stepfamilies is known for her creative speaking style imbued with energy, personal stories, and humor. She inspires families by helping parents be in tune with their children and showing couples how to be intentional in their relationship. First married in 1986, a mom in 1993, a single parent in 1998, and a stepmom in 2001, Jayna and her husband, Mike, have four children (ages 18-21) and live in Houston, Texas.

Sunday, January 4 (First Sunday of each month) | 11:15 AM | Amphitheater

Learn How to Create a Prayer Shawl

Fifteen years ago, two women set out to create something soft and warm to help remind those who needed it that God's comfort is always there. Thus was born the Prayer Shawl Ministry, which makes lovely, hand-knitted shawls made of fluffy, warm yarn. Join us to learn the basics of knitting* which will allow you to participate in this quiet yet powerful ministry. Please bring a set of size 11 or 13 needles and at least one skein of Lion Brand Homespun Yarn (it takes 3 to complete a shawl).

Sundays, January 11-February 8 | 9:45 AM | Room 217

Questions? Contact MDPC Member Liz Timmer: etimmer@higg.com

To sign up, visit register.mdpc.org or contact Amanda Grace Caldwell (713-490-0931). Spots are limited!

*Shawls may be crocheted. If you are skilled in crochet, come share your skills!

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 Christ-centered recovery program can help free you from your hurts, habits, and hangups. It is not only about addiction, it's about brokenness in any area of your life that prevents you from growing toward full maturity in Christ.

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

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

*Please stand if able.

CCLI # 182374

8:30 BLENDED SERVICE

WELCOME Dave Steane
 *SONGS OF PRAISE *Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus* arr. Gómez
Hark! the Herald Angels Sing Hardman/Wesley/Mendelssohn/Wood
 *PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE OF PARDON Brett Hurst
 SONG OF PREPARATION *What Child Is This?* GREENSLEEVES
 GIFTS OF GRATITUDE *Breath of Heaven* Grant/Eaton
 MESSAGE Everlasting Father! The Apple Doesn't Fall Far from the Tree Howard Edington
 SONG OF RESPONSE

9:45 CONTEMPORARY SERVICE

*SONGS OF PRAISE
 *PRAYER OF CONFESSION Luke Gordon
 GIFTS OF GRATITUDE Dave Steane
 MESSAGE Everlasting Father! The Apple Doesn't Fall Far from the Tree Howard Edington
 SONG OF RESPONSE
 CONGREGATIONAL MEETING David Thomas

11:15 TRADITIONAL SERVICE

PRELUDES *Christmas Meditation* Brass Quintet
 WELCOME AND CALL TO WORSHIP Dave Steane
 *CHORAL INTROIT *Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus* David McCullough
 *HYMN OF PRAISE *Angels from the Realms of Glory* #22; Vs. 1, 2, 4 | REGENT SQUARE
 *PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE OF PARDON Rick Myers
 *AFFIRMATION OF FAITH
 *CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE *Angels We Have Heard on High* #23; Vs. 3 | GLORIA
 ANTHEM *Arise, Your Light Has Come* David Danner (b. 1951-1993)
 NEW MEMBERS
 BAPTISM Karl Holub
 CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE
 GIFTS OF GRATITUDE *Glory Be to God on High (from The Incarnation)* K. Lee Scott (b. 1950)
 MESSAGE Everlasting Father! The Apple Doesn't Fall Far from the Tree Howard Edington
 *HYMN OF PRAISE *Once In Royal David's City* #49; Vs. 1-2 | IRBY
 POSTLUDE *Joy to the World* arr. DeBruyn

We welcome to the 11:15 service the following musicians: Robert Walp and Logan Kavanaugh, trumpet; Kendall Gray, French horn; Rick White, trombone; Ali Jackson, tuba; and Julio Sanchez, percussion.

OTHER WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

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

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:

WorkFaith Connection is a Christ-centered nonprofit helping people achieve economic self-sufficiency through job placement, job retention, and career advancement. It empowers clients to provide for themselves and their families emotionally, spiritually, and financially, stabilizing families and our community.
workfaithconnection.org

Grace International Children's Foundation (GICF) addresses the urgent needs of abandoned children and those left orphaned by east Africa's AIDS epidemic. MDPC teams have served at Lulwanda Children's Home, a GICF orphanage in Mbale, Uganda. There, 120 children receive love, housing, and Christian education, and many neighborhood children join them for school.
ugandaorphans.org

The Micah Project ministers to young men who have spent anguished childhoods in impoverished homes or on the streets of Tegucigalpa, Honduras. These youths learn to become Christian leaders through discipleship, formal education, and service to others in need. The Micah Project supports these young men as they become the next Christian leaders of Honduras.
micahcentral.org



M Detailed maps available ? Information Centers

Please Pray...

For the families of those mourning:

- Bob Appel, who passed away November 24, 2014.
- Joe Miller, who passed away November 20, 2014.
- Florence Marie Hall Abssi, who passed away November 30, 2014.
- Karl James Penny, who passed away December 6, 2014.

With gratitude for these blessings:

- Robert Cooper Crawley, born November 20, 2014, to Elizabeth and Rob Crawley. He is the grandson of Lynne and John Williams.

For members recently released from the hospital:

- Dick Baile
- Emmy Harper
- Sherry Johnston

For the Senior Pastor Nominating Committee:

Please pray for the committee, for our congregation, and for the new pastor that God is calling to our church.
 Visit pnc.mdpc.org for updates.

WEEKLY FINANCIAL UPDATE

as of December 7, 2014

OPERATING INCOME	
2014 Budget	\$ 10,550,000
Actual Income to Date	\$ 7,517,436
Needed to Meet Budget	\$ 3,032,564



Loving God. Proclaiming Christ. Living Generously. Engaging All.
 11612 Memorial Drive | Houston, Texas 77024 | mdpc.org | 713-782-1710

Everlasting Father!

John 14:7-14

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's encounter with Philip in John 14:7-14.

- The theme from last week's message of Jesus being God continues in this passage. In verse seven Jesus said, "If you really know Me, you will know My Father as well." Theologically, we are speaking of the Incarnation; that God became human in the person of Jesus Christ. Jesus wanted Philip to know that by knowing Jesus, he will know what God is like. From what you know of Jesus, what words come to mind to describe God?
- In verse nine, Jesus returns to the idea of *knowing* Him. The verb *to know* means much more than just being acquainted with someone. It includes *to understand, grasp, or ascertain* something. It takes knowing to a much deeper level. How well do you know Jesus? Do you understand Him? Have you grasped Him? What things stand in your way of knowing Him more deeply?
- In verse ten Jesus said, "I am in the Father, and the Father is in Me." One of the greatest mysteries of the Christian faith is the Trinity. The Father, Son, and Spirit are all distinct individuals, but at the same time they are equally and fully God. How do you understand the Trinity? What difference does the Trinity make in your faith?
- Jesus said in verse 12, "whoever believes in Me will do the works I have been doing." How do you understand this statement? What does this statement say about the unique and intimate relationship between Jesus and His followers? How have you experienced doing the works that Jesus did?
- Verse 14 can be perplexing. Jesus said, "You may ask Me for anything in My Name, and I will do it." Jesus is certainly much more than a Genie in a bottle! How do you understand what Jesus is saying? What does it mean to ask for something in *Jesus' Name*?

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

Does MDPC Provide Funds to the PCUSA?

As MDPC continues to evaluate our affiliation with the Presbyterian Church (USA), you might be interested to know that MDPC does not provide funding to the national PCUSA denomination. The Session voted in December 2008 to stop paying per capita funds to the PCUSA in response to decisions and policies being made by the PCUSA with which MDPC's leadership continues to disagree. Per capita is a voluntary financial contribution which the PCUSA encourages in order to provide funding for the operational expenses of the national PCUSA headquarters in Louisville, Kentucky. Therefore, all funds donated to MDPC are either used to fund our ministries and operations, or to fund our outreach giving which is approved by our Outreach Committee and Session. Thank you for your faithful support of the Lord's work at MDPC.



Karl and Molly Holub are the parents of three children: Chanse (12), Charlie (10), and Caroline (10). Karl is the owner of a property management and real estate firm. He enjoys tennis and running. Molly is an attorney and human resource consultant. She enjoys exercising and volunteering at her children's schools.



Chanbum Park and Youngsook Byun, who recently moved from Korea, are the parents of three grown children and three grandchildren. Chanbum is retired from the South Korean government. He also taught law at a university in Korea. Youngsook is a retired Korean home economics high school teacher, who enjoys listening to rock ballad music.



Barbara Shaw is married to member Ted Shaw. She is an artist and the president of Logic, Sight, and Sound.



Nancy Staples is the mother of three grown children. She is a financial advisor. She enjoys hiking in Colorado, swimming, and Pilates.



Mike and Kathy Suerth are the parents of Maddie (13), Jack (12), and Melanie (9). Mike is an IT supervisor for BHP Billiton Petroleum. He enjoys golfing, traveling, grilling, and do-it-yourself projects. Kathy is a teacher at Stratford High School. She enjoys writing, reading, traveling, and crafts.



Elizabeth Ulsh is the mother of Madison (7) and Brendan (3). She is a private school teacher. She enjoys running and, in January, will be running the Houston Marathon for the second year. She loves volunteering for the three-year-old class as a storyteller on Sunday morning.

Is it Time for You to Join MDPC?

Discover MDPC

We invite you to attend an informational meeting to learn more about the vision and outreach of MDPC. No commitment required! This is a no-pressure opportunity to explore church membership and what it would mean to be part of our faith community.

Sunday, January 25 | Gathering Room | 10:45-11:10 AM

New Member Classes

New Member Classes are for those interested in membership. They are taught by the associate pastors and elders, and include a Saturday service project.

Sundays, February 1-March 8 | 11:00 AM-12:15 PM | CLC Rooms 171-172

Visit membership.mdpc.org for more information and to register for New Member Classes, or contact Diann Turet, Membership Director: dturet@mdpc.org or 713-490-9553