

Getting ready for a lifetime commitment...

Married Life Prep

A fun, four-week course for engaged and newly married couples taught by Brett and Kellie Hurst.

Sundays, January 4-25
10:00 AM-12:00 PM | No Cost

Completing the class gets you a \$60 discount when you purchase your marriage license!

↑ mlp.mdpc.org

↓ cbgr.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)

↓ bind.mdpc.org

B90 READ THE BIBLE

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

The Challenge:
To read attentively every word of the Bible in 90 days.
Begins January 18

↓ global.mdpc.org

China

A Mission of Encouragement

March 21-31, 2015
Beijing • Tianjin • Xining

global.mdpc.org

Parent Palooza

Free Event!
parenting.mdpc.org

Dig deeper in breakout sessions on parenting topics.

January 9-10 (Friday PM & Saturday AM)

Childcare available by reservation:
childcare@mdpc.org

↑ parenting.mdpc.org

↓ study.mdpc.org

HEROES OF THE FAITH FILM FESTIVAL

Need inspiration? Discover some of the great Christian leaders of the past who changed the course of history! Learn more about the legacy we have inherited from those who dared to take a stand.

Wednesdays in January
6:30 PM | Amphitheater
Pick up a flier for details.

↓ recovery.mdpc.org

CELEBRATE RECOVERY

Christ-centered Recovery

Tuesdays
6:30-8:30 PM
Rooms 217-219
Light supper provided

Divorce, grief, pornography, infidelity, shame, guilt, life transitions, low self-esteem, drugs or alcohol, depression, food issues, loss of job... Overcome your hurts, habits, and hang-ups of any type with this biblical and balanced program.

↓ retreats.mdpc.org

Monet and the Seine

Prayer Retreat at Museum of Fine Arts Houston

Friday, January 23
9:30 AM-2:30 PM

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

Prayerfully enjoy God's creation of water and light at 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

Sunday, December 28, 2014



Witness of the Light

John 1:6-8, 19-28

Mauricio Chacón preaching

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

MDPC HIGHLIGHTS

Denominational Issues Update

On Monday, December 15, the MDPC Session voted to enter the Gracious Reconciliation and Dismissal Procedure. A Congregational Meeting will be held on Sunday, February 22, in order for the membership to vote on whether or not to affirm the Session’s decision. *For detailed information, visit denom-issues.mdpc.org. For those without internet access, printed copies are available at the Connection Center and Front Office.*

Attention College Students!

This winter break, reconnect with friends and make some new ones. Consider coming to some (or all!) of these events:

Sundays at 11:15 AM – College Bible study in The Garage (Youth area)

Sundays at 5:00 PM – Fifth Service

Tomorrow, December 29 – Serve together at Star of Hope, 4:00-6:30 PM

January 1-3 – Camping Trip to Enchanted Rock

Text Brandon Gaide for details: 832-627-9613

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 is known for her creative speaking style imbued with energy, personal stories, and humor.

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

Contact Amanda Grace Caldwell: acaldwell@mdpc.org or 713-490-0931

Venturers presents: A Businessman’s Perspective on Public Service

Mayor Bill White, businessman and attorney, presents thoughts on the need to encourage public service, and some principal changes in our region and nation.

Monday, January 5 | Social Hour 6:00 PM, Dinner/Program 7:00 PM

Westchase Hilton (9999 Westheimer Road)

RSVP by December 31 to Chuck & Linnie Edwards: 9350 Shady Lane Circle, 77063 (713-785-7115)

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

Learn How to Create a Prayer Shawl

Prayer Shawl Ministry makes lovely, hand-knitted or crocheted shawls of fluffy, warm yarn to remind those in need of God’s love and constant presence. Join us to learn the basics of knitting and participate in this quiet yet powerful ministry.

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

Email Liz Timmer with questions (etimmer@higg.com) or sign up at register.mdpc.org. Spots are limited!

Bible Studies for Kids

Gems & Jewels: Finding Treasure in God’s Word

Wednesdays, January 14-April 1 | 5:30-6:30 PM | Galaxy

A Bible study for 3rd-5th grade girls seeking to learn more about the Bible and Jesus!

Scuba: Diving Deeper Into Your Faith

Wednesdays, January 14-April 1 | 5:30-6:30 PM | Galaxy

A Bible study for 3rd-5th grade boys who want to get to know Jesus and the Bible better!

Share Your Business Skills

Newspring’s annual Business Plan Competition begins in January. Over the past six years, more than 100 MDPC members have participated by advising HCC students in drafting a business plan. It’s a great opportunity to be a Christian witness in a secular world. Advisers work in pairs, mentoring their contestants through the competition

For details, contact Robert Westheimer at rwestheimer1@comcast.net.

MDPC WORSHIP

*Please stand if able.

CCLI # 182374

8:30, 9:45, & 11:15 AM

WELCOME	Kristin Huffman	
*SONGS OF PRAISE	<i>Ode to Joy</i>	arr. Hall
	<i>All Creatures of Our God and King</i>	arr. Crowder
*PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE OF PARDON		
*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH	The Apostles’ Creed	
SONG OF PREPARATION	<i>What Child Is This?</i>	GREENSLEEVES
GIFTS OF GRATITUDE	<i>He Has Come for Us</i>	Ingram/Andrews
MESSAGE	WITNESS OF THE LIGHT	Mauricio Chacón
SONG OF RESPONSE	<i>O Come, All Ye Faithful</i>	ADESTE FIDELES

SERMON NOTES

Witness of the Light

John 1:6-8, 19-28 | Mauricio Chacón preaching

Did you ever ask the question: Where did I come from? Where am I going? What is the reason for my existence? John the Baptist knew the purpose of his life, and he shows us the way to find the answer to these crucial questions.

I. Sent by God

The gospel of John tells us that there was a man sent by God. This is the first response to the question, where did I come from? God has sent us because we have a message to share. We are not in this world to be idle, but to proclaim God’s Word. The meaning of being sent by God is even deeper than being created by God. We can see here the concept of authority that has been given to us by God: We have been sent by God to live and to do the will of God. We have not been sent by God to be defeated and without hope. We have been created to live in victory honoring our Creator.

II. To Be a Witness

John came to be a witness of God before his generation. Our generation today is observing us; they want to see if we are really witnessing Jesus Christ, the true Light. Only those who have a real experience with Christ, who have repented of their evil ways, who know that their sins have been forgiven, can testify to the Light. In order to be able to speak on the reality of the Light, first one must experience it. A witness only can testify on what he or she knows, has seen or heard. In the same way, only those that know Jesus Christ in personal form can witness to His light.

III. A Defined Mission

John the Baptist knew exactly what his mission was in life. His concrete goal was that we all be ready for the coming of the Messiah - that we all repent and to prepare the way for the Lord. This should be the intention of every Christian person in order for those around us to be able to believe in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior through our testimony.

IV. He Was Not the Light

John the Baptist was not the true Light, but he had the authority and the power to speak to his generation. He also showed us that no one is in himself the Light, but we are sent to speak of the Light. We can enjoy this authority because it has been given to us. Jesus declares that we are “the light of the world” (Matthew 5:14). That is to say, Jesus Christ is the Light *through* us. We shine because He shines in our being. The others will be able to get to know Jesus Christ through our life, not because we are or we have something, but because “the light of the world,” Jesus Christ, lives in us by His Holy Spirit (Galatians 2:20).

My prayer in this New Year is that we may understand that we are sent by God to be witnesses. We have a mission to accomplish, with an understanding that we are not the Light, but that we only reflect it to others.

MDPC INFO

Coordinating Team

Mauricio Chacón | Associate Pastor for Hispanic

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:

Young Life of Greater Houston is a Christian support organization operating on high school and middle school campuses. The urban program has expanded to include chapters that minister specifically to unwed mothers (Young Lives), junior high students (Wyldlife), and urban Latinos. younglife.org

Presbyterian Frontier Fellowship (PFF) is privileged to help Presbyterians be part of how God is moving in the world. Its goal is to see every ethnic group have its own church, reflecting its own cultural characteristics. MDPC partners with PFF partners Dan McNerney (U.S., Egypt, and Central America) and Urgessa (Ethiopia). pff.net

Transitions Foundation is committed to mobilizing disabled Guatemalans through rehabilitation, education, and spiritual development so that they can become productive contributors to their own culture. MDPC’s partner Alex Galvez co-founded Transitions to give dignity to the disabled as they work together to make custom wheelchairs and prosthetics.

transitionsfoundation.org



MDPC

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

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



Please Pray...

For members recently released from the hospital:

• Cynthia Whitty

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.

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.

2014 Year-end Contributions

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. For your convenience, online contributions for the 2014 tax year also will be accepted through December 31: give.mdpc.org

WEEKLY FINANCIAL UPDATE as of December 22, 2014

OPERATING INCOME	
2014 Budget	\$ 10,550,000
Actual Income to Date	\$ 8,626,758
Needed to Meet Budget	\$ 1,923,242