

MDPC Concert Series
2014-2015

Next Sunday, April 26
7:00 PM | Sanctuary

EVERY PURPOSE UNDER THE HEAVEN

The MDPC Sanctuary Choir and orchestra present an all-British Choral Concert featuring the U.S. Premiere of Howard Goodall's *Every Purpose Under the Heaven* (The King James Bible Oratorio). Program includes "Serenade to Music" by Ralph Vaughan Williams, and "Te Deum" by Karl Jenkins. Conducted by Dr. Charles Hausmann.

Free Admission
Open to the Public

↑ concerts.mdpc.org ↓ women.mdpc.org

FIELD DAY

Saturday, April 25
3:30-5:30 PM | MDPC Ball Field

Join MDPC Singles and Single Parents for an old-fashioned, family-friendly afternoon of races, relays, and other silly games: 3-legged race, potato sack race, tug o' war, water balloon toss, and more. We'll finish it up with a game of kickball!

singles.mdpc.org

Contact Sarah Stone with questions:
ssstone@mdpc.org, 832-605-8129

↑ singles.mdpc.org ↓ storytelling.mdpc.org

Sunday, April 19, 2015



Introducing the Rev. Dr. Alf Halvorson as our Senior Pastor Candidate!

WORN Pages

Our Favorite Scriptures

John 6:1-14

Sitting on Your Lunch(es)

Alf Halvorson preaching his Candidating Sermon

We're so glad you're here for this historic day at MDPC as we meet the Candidate whom the Senior Pastor Nominating Committee has chosen. After two years of due diligence, screenings, travel, interviews, and much prayer, we will meet the man that the thirteen PNC members hope will lead MDPC into its next era.

Members, be sure and stay for the Congregational Meeting that follows each service so that you can participate in this important vote!

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

Mothers & Others

Moms of young kids and pregnant moms: We know how busy you are - this hour of coffee and conversation is worth making time for!

Thursday, April 30
9:30-10:30 AM | Parlor

Childcare available, just email childcare@mdpc.org to let them know your kids are coming!

↓ health.mdpc.org

Stroke Scan at MDPC

Thursday, April 23 | 11:00 AM-8:00 PM

Prevent health problems with this affordable set of tests and scans. Three vascular screenings for \$135 - a fraction of what it would cost in a hospital! A Stroke Scan rep is in the Sanctuary Lobby this morning to answer questions.

Take advantage of this opportunity and schedule an appointment today! Visit the rep in the Lobby, or call 281-646-7766.

↓ summercel.mdpc.org

LIVE like THE KING!

SUMMER CELEBRATION 2015
MDPC's version of Vacation Bible School

Monday-Friday, July 13-17
9:30 AM to 12:30 PM

For children who have completed Kindergarten through 5th grade. Preschool children can attend if a parent volunteers.

Information and registration: summercel.mdpc.org

The Power of Storytelling

Come hear stories from the Bible told by Sarah Stone in a fresh, lively way, then work on/tell your own story! We'll walk through the art of storytelling (what makes a good story?) and then give you an opportunity to share one of yours, if you want.

Wednesdays through April 29 | 6:30-8:00 PM | Summit Room
More info and registration: storytelling.mdpc.org

↓ events.mdpc.org

DECODING THE MILLENNIAL GENERATION

May 6 and 13 | 6:30-8:00 PM | Summit Room

The Millennial generation (b.1980-2000), the largest and most unchurched generation in American history, is beginning to come of age. Soon they'll be leading companies, churches, and the government. What does this mean for the future of our culture? This class, led by Rev. Brandon Gaide, gives special emphasis to parents of Millennials who want to understand the choices and values of their grown children.

↓ seniors.mdpc.org

Prime Timers

Ready...Set...Glow!

Prime Timers presents its annual fashion show featuring spring styles from Draper's and Damon's.

Tuesday, April 21 | Fellowship Hall

Free Program 10:30 AM-Noon
Lunch (\$9.50) Noon

Reservations for lunch are closed, but guests are welcome to join us for the fashion show at 10:30!

MDPC HIGHLIGHTS

MDPC to Vote on Calling a New Senior Pastor

Each of this morning's three worship services will be followed by a Congregational Meeting to vote on three motions:

- 1) Calling Rev. Dr. Alf Halvorson as our next Senior Pastor
- 2) Approving his terms of call
- 3) Dissolving the Pastor Nominating Committee

Children's Ministries Is Looking for Summer College Interns

Do you like working with kids? Need a summer job? Then interning in MDPC Children's Ministries might be for you! Applicants must have completed one year of college. Contact Rachel Poysky for an application and more details: rpoysky@mdpc.org

Host Family Needed for Summer Youth Intern

Youth Ministries is looking for a generous family to host a summer intern, Stephen Lancaster, who currently is a sophomore at Taylor University in Indiana. Email Luke Gordon (lgordon@mdpc.org) if you're willing to host or interested in learning more.

Purely Parenting

Purely Parenting forums are 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. Open to all. April Speakers: Fred and Susan Caldwell, "Letting Go of Control" Today at 11:15 AM | Amphitheater

Presbyterian Outreach to Patients (POP) Lay Chaplaincy Training

We need you, and you will love this ministry! Training as a POP Lay Chaplain prepares you for visiting patients and their loved ones in hospitals. You will join a ministry of folks who have a heart for listening and for sharing God's strength with people waiting for answers, trying to balance coping and healing. Lunch is provided free of charge. Saturday, April 25 | 9:00 AM-3:00 PM | Pines Presbyterian (12751 Kimberley Lane, 77024) Contact AnneMarie to register: annemarie@popministry.org

Venturers presents Texian Legacy

Nina Hendee, owner and operator of the Taste of Texas Restaurant (now in its 37th year!), discusses the rich heritage of early Texas cultures. Monday, May 4 | Social Hour 6:00 PM, Dinner/Program 7:00 PM Westchase Hilton (9999 Westheimer Road) RSVP by Wednesday, April 29 to Chuck & Linnie Edwards: 713-785-7115

Prom Dress Donations

Spring is in the air and school dances are around the corner! Female students at Spring Branch schools are in need of dance attire. Please consider donating your gently-used tea-length and long dresses and/or shoes to help students have a special evening. You can only imagine how much these gifts will be appreciated! Donations can be accepted in Outreach Ministries until Friday, May 1. Contact Maritza Pujols: mpujols@mdpc.org or 713-490-9556

Faith In Practice (FIP) Women's Luncheon: The Hands of God

FIP invites you to its Annual Women's Luncheon, *The Hands of God*, which will celebrate Guatemalan and American volunteers joining hands in service to the poor. FIP volunteers will share personal stories of patients in Guatemala who have changed their lives. Attendees also will enjoy shopping for authentic Guatemalan handicrafts at the Mercado and may participate in a raffle that includes an overnight stay and spa package at Hotel ZaZa. Thursday, May 7 | Hotel Zaza Tickets: faithinpractice.org/womensluncheon

Wanted: Clothes Closet Volunteer

Looking for a volunteer to assist three other ladies in sorting through donations of clothing, housewares, and miscellaneous items donated to MDPC's Clothes Closet. Wednesdays, 10:00 AM-Noon To learn more, contact Karen Cole: 713-532-0966

MDPC WORSHIP

*Please stand if able.

CCLI # 182374

8:30 BLENDED SERVICE

WELCOME		Dave Steane
*SONGS OF PRAISE	<i>Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty</i>	LOBE DEN HERREN
	<i>Great Are You, Lord</i>	Ingram/Jordan/Leonard
*PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE OF PARDON		Brett Hurst
GIFTS OF GRATITUDE	<i>Oceans (Where Feet May Fail)</i>	Crocker/Houston/Lighthelm
MESSAGE	Sitting on Your Lunch(es)	Alf Halvorson
CONGREGATIONAL MEETING		Mike Handel and John Hartman

9:45 CONTEMPORARY SERVICE

*SONGS OF PRAISE		
*PRAYER OF CONFESSION		Rick Myers
GIFTS OF GRATITUDE		Dave Steane
OFFERTORY		
MESSAGE	Sitting on Your Lunch(es)	Alf Halvorson
CONGREGATIONAL MEETING		Mike Handel and John Hartman

11:15 TRADITIONAL SERVICE

PRELUDE	<i>Choral in E Major</i>	Cesar Franck (1822-1890)
WELCOME		Dave Steane
CALL TO WORSHIP		
*HYMN OF PRAISE	<i>Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty</i>	#482; Vs. 1-3 LOBE DEN HERREN
*PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE OF PARDON		Kristin Huffman
*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH	The Apostles' Creed	
ANTHEM	<i>Praise His Holy Name</i>	Keith Hampton (b. 1957)
	Julio Sanchez, drums; Kathryn White, piano; Dennis Whittaker, bass	
OFFERTORY	<i>The Majesty and Glory of Your Name</i>	Fetke (b. 1951); arr. White
MESSAGE	Sitting on Your Lunch(es)	Alf Halvorson
*HYMN OF RESPONSE	<i>Great Is Thy Faithfulness</i>	#276; Vs. 1, 3 FAITHFULNESS
CONGREGATIONAL MEETING		Mike Handel and John Hartman

OTHER WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

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

MDPC INFO

Coordinating Team

Mauricio Chacón | Associate Pastor for Fuente
 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
 Gena Kooken | Sr. Leadership Ministry Coor.
 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
 Charlie Shedd | 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:

Cornerstone Family Ministries is a multicultural, faith-based nonprofit in Spring Branch that believes in the fact that when parents do well, their children do well. It partners with churches to address practical and spiritual needs in a less threatening setting outside the institutional church. cfmhouston.org

East Spring Branch Food Pantry is a small, completely volunteer-run organization. Located at Holy Cross Lutheran Church, it distributes food four days per week to families residing in the 77055, 77043, 77024, 77092, and 77080 zip codes. eastspringbranchfoodpantry.com

China Resource Center equips and strengthens the growing Chinese church and fosters constructive Western engagement in China by building churches in rural areas and distributing Bibles. This ministry is dedicated to reflecting the relevance and love of Jesus Christ as it shares the Good News. chinarresourcecenter.org



In 2015, we celebrate 60 years of faith and ministry!

The red floral-patterned carpeting that originally covered the upstairs-west hallway was donated by the Rice Hotel in a carpet drive held during the 1959 construction of the wing.

Do you have classic MDPC photos? We'd love to share them! Email scans to Eva Kaminski (ekaminski@mdpc.org) or drop prints at the Front Office.

Today's Chancel Flowers:

- are given by Jim Townsen, in memory of Carol Townsen.

Please Pray...

For 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	
2015 Budget	\$ 10,500,000
Expected Income to date	\$ 2,622,883
Actual Income to Date	\$ 2,140,926
Current Income Deficit	\$ 481,957



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



Hobbies and Interests

Alf treasures time with family, and enjoys golf, hiking, games, movies, and time around the backyard fire pit in conversation with family and friends. Alf played high school and college basketball until he was sidelined by an injury. He is an avid sports fan.

During his three-month sabbatical in the summer of 2013, he hiked with his family from rim to rim of the Grand Canyon. Alf claims a more accurate description would be that he “survived” the hike, but it added a

fabulous bucket-list, Halvorson-shared memory.

Shari has enjoyed singing in the traditional choir, playing in the contemporary band, and helping in children’s ministry at FPCB.

Statement of Faith

The following is excerpted from Dr. Halvorson’s Statement of Faith:

People want their lives to count. Their greatest fear is that they might live their lives in ineffectiveness, incompetence, or blandness. They long for a challenge big enough to demand and capture their allegiance, exciting enough to rally their enthusiasm, and crucial enough to warrant their time.

This can result in works: trying harder, working more, and enjoying life less. But Jesus said, “I came that you might have life and have it more abundantly.” We are saved by grace. Life is a gift.

God invites us out of the stands and into the game, to make a difference with our one and only lives. We become, because of Christ in our midst, men and women worshipping, studying, growing, and caring. We, who are served by Christ, are sent to serve others – the harassed and helpless, the sheep needing the Good Shepherd. Life at its depth can be experienced and shared, and God’s good creation can be meaningfully engaged so that glimpses, pockets, beachheads of real community and wholeness can emerge in our families, churches, and greater society. We can be salt and light, grace and truth, Christ’s hands and feet, to and for a “God so loved” world.



MDPC

Memorial Drive Presbyterian Church

11612 Memorial Drive | Houston, Texas 77024

mdpc.org | 713-782-1710

The Senior Pastor
Nominating Committee
of
Memorial Drive
Presbyterian Church
Joyfully nominates



Rev. Dr. Alf Halvorson

for the Position of

MDPC Senior Pastor

Background and Family

Alf (rhymes with *golf*) was raised in a strong Christian home in Minnesota, but spent part of his youth in Nevada, Missouri. He met his future wife, Shari, in high school, and they married right after graduating from college. Shari is a community health nurse, and they have two children. Matt is graduating from The University of Texas in May with an MA in Educational Psychology. Kristen is graduating from Eastern University, Philadelphia, with a BS in Athletic Training.



Education

Alf was ordained in the Presbyterian Church in 1991. He graduated Summa Cum Laude and Phi Beta Kappa from Luther College (Decorah, Iowa) with a BA, majoring in Political Science and Psychology. Alf went on to receive his Master of Divinity (1990) and Master of Theology (1991) from Princeton Theological Seminary, and his Doctor of Ministry from Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary (2011).

Alf is a life-long learner who pursues a disciplined reading schedule in many areas including leadership, church growth, spiritual formation, Biblical interpretation, theology, and business best practices.

Pastoral Experience

Since his ordination, Alf has served three churches:

1991-1995

Associate Pastor & Acting Head of Staff
Collegiate Presbyterian Church
Ames, Iowa (750 members)

1995-2007

Executive/Associate Pastor
& Head of Staff
First & Calvary Presbyterian Church
Springfield, Missouri (2,300 members)

2007-2015

Senior Pastor & Head of Staff
First Presbyterian Church Bethlehem
Bethlehem, Pennsylvania (2,600 members)

The Call to MDPC

The Senior Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) initially approached Alf seeking recommendations for possible candidates, but they quickly became interested in *him* as a candidate. He was happy and well-loved in his current church, but agreed over time to engage in an ongoing dialogue with our PNC to determine where the Holy Spirit would lead. PNC members made multiple visits to FPCB and hosted Alf and Shari on visits to MDPC. During this process, God kept opening the door wider and wider for Alf and Shari to consider a call to MDPC. A call was extended through a unanimous vote by all 13 members of the PNC – and Alf and Shari accepted!

The PNC discovered during the continuing dialogue with Alf that he fit all of the desired traits that the committee had set out for MDPC's next Senior Pastor including:

- Strong preaching/teaching
- Spiritual maturity
- Motivator
- Life-long learner
- Honest, generous, and humble
- Confident and joyful in his approach to ministry, and possessing a sense of humor

In addition, Alf was referred to the PNC by more individuals than any other candidate as the right fit for MDPC.

What People Say About Alf

- Alf is very caring toward others, and can relate to people of all ages and stages.
- He is very pastoral, yet also a good leader, allowing him to be as effective leading worship (in both traditional and contemporary services) as he is in moderating a congregational meeting.
- Alf believes strongly in “equipping the saints,” and the Lordship of Jesus Christ.
- Alf is a gifted preacher who makes God understandable and delivers a message that is transformational.
- Alf transformed FPCB into a church with articulated priorities and measurable goals that rallied the congregation to empower disciples, double small group participation, and expand service in the community.
- Alf does not seek any fortune or recognition, but only the call of God to serve the church and the people.
- Alf is a goal-oriented leader who is adept at assessing the culture, identifying strengths and weaknesses, and enhancing the effectiveness of the ministries of the churches he has served.
- Alf enjoys spending time in small groups, and going on mission trips and retreats, to connect with people on a very personal level.
- He partners with Shari in faith and life, and they value each other's gifts.