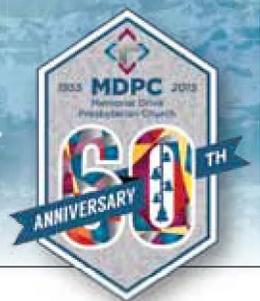


Sunday, May 17, 2015

WORN Pages

Our Favorite Scriptures



*Please stand if able.

CCLI # 182374

8:30 BLENDED SERVICE

WELCOME		Dave Steane
*SONGS OF PRAISE	<i>10,000 Reasons (Bless the Lord)</i> <i>All Creatures of Our God and King</i>	Redman/Myrin arr. Crowder
*PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE OF PARDON		Brett Hurst
SONG OF PREPARATION	<i>Amazing Grace</i>	AMAZING GRACE
GIFTS OF GRATITUDE	<i>Cross Medley</i>	arr. Gómez
MESSAGE	<i>Counting the Cost</i> Matthew 8:18-22	Rick Myers

9:45 CONTEMPORARY SERVICE

*SONGS OF PRAISE		
*PRAYER OF CONFESSION		Luke Gordon
GIFTS OF GRATITUDE		Dave Steane
MESSAGE	<i>Counting the Cost</i> Matthew 8:18-22	Rick Myers

11:15 TRADITIONAL SERVICE

PRELUDE	<i>Partita on "I'll Praise My Maker"</i>	Robert Hobby (b. 1962)
WELCOME		Dave Steane
CALL TO WORSHIP		
CHORAL INTROIT	<i>I Will Worship the Lord</i>	John Rutter (b. 1945)
*HYMN OF PRAISE	<i>Come, Thou Almighty King</i>	#139; Vs. 1, 3, 4 ITALIAN HYMN
*PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE OF PARDON		Rachel Poysky
*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH	The Apostles' Creed	
*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE	<i>The Gloria Patri</i>	Hymn #579
ANTHEM	<i>With a Voice of Singing</i>	Kenneth Jennings (b. 1925)
OFFERTORY	<i>He Comes to Us</i>	Jane Marshall (b. 1924)
MESSAGE	<i>Counting the Cost</i> Matthew 8:18-22	Rick Myers
*HYMN OF RESPONSE	<i>O Love That Wilt Not Let Me Go</i>	#384; Vs. 1, 3 ST. MARGARET
POSTLUDE	<i>Postlude on "Italian Hymn"</i>	Gordon Young (1919-1998)

We welcome Jan Taylor as guest conductor at the 11:15 AM service.

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

Praises & Prayers

Today's Chancel Flowers are given by:
Wanda Brooks, in celebration of Mike and Kathy Reily on their 35th wedding anniversary.

Prayers 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.

Please Pray for the Halvorson Family

Alf Halvorson, MDPC's new senior pastor, and his wife, Shari, are facing significant changes over the coming months. Pray for the Halvorson family, and for the congregation of First Presbyterian Church Bethlehem, in this period of transition.

Visit pastor.mdpc.org for information.

Sermon Notes are Available at the Connection Center

Stop by the Connection Center in the Lobby to pick up a paper copy of this week's sermon notes. They are also available online at notes.mdpc.org.

May Is MAM Month at MDPC!

Memorial Assistance Ministries' (MAM) needs donations of household and food items (like toothpaste, tuna salad kits, and deodorant). Pick up a flyer for a handy list of needed goods. Contact Maritza Pujols: mpujols@mdpc.org or 713-490-9556

Blood Drive Today

Walk-ins are always welcome!

8:00 AM-2:00 PM | Fellowship Hall

Storytellers: What I Wish I Had Known

Hear from a panel of real, honest women about the things they wish they had known. This quarterly offering draws together women of all ages to commune and connect.

Wednesday, May 20 | 6:30-8:00 PM | Chapel

Contact Amanda Grace Caldwell with questions: acaldwell@mdpc.org, 713-490-0931

Moving Forward: For Those Grieving the Loss of a Spouse

Losing a spouse is emotional and stressful, and it helps to have support. Join us for dinner, fellowship, and conversation as we continue the journey of "moving forward."

Wednesday, May 20 | 5:45 PM | Parlor | No fee; dinner available for purchase

Questions? Contact Betsy Cleveland: bcleveland@mdpc.org or 713-490-9542

How to Hear God

Designed for the individual who is hungry for a deeper relationship with the Holy Spirit, this four-week class explores classic disciplines that help us identify and hear the voice of God.

Thursdays, May 21 & 28 | Noon-1:15 PM | MDPC High School Room (Room 265)

Sign-up: register.mdpc.org

MDPC College: Rocky Mountains Backpacking Summer Adventure

The answer is YES! YES, you carry everything on your back for six days; YES, you climb up and over a mountain; YES, you have an incredible time re-connecting with your friends and with God!

Info Night: Wednesday, May 27 | 6:30 PM (after College Bible Study), Peña Home

Text "Tall Guy" Alex Knoop for more info: 512-917-9432

An Introduction to Covenant Theology taught by MDPC Elder, Drew Tingleaf

We'll study the amazing way the key promises, or covenants, that God made with us in the Bible serve as lenses through which we can examine His supernatural, yet very tangible, love for us.

Wednesdays, May 27-June 10 | 6:30-8:00 PM | Summit Room

Contact Christyn Knoop: cknoop@mdpc.org or 713-490-0940

Summer Celebration 2015: Live Like the King!

For children who have completed K-5th grade. Preschoolers can attend if a parent volunteers.

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

Registration is open: summercel.mdpc.org

Help Needed In "Bite Size" Portions

Second Family is seeking volunteers to deliver meals to homebound MDPC members (Mondays and Thursdays), and to transport members to and from doctor appointments and grocery stores.

Contact Betsy Cleveland (713-490-9542, bcleveland@mdpc.org) or Judy Ebling (281-888-4581, elledjf@aol.com).

Children's Ministries Needs You!

Sign up to help teach elementary or preschool kids about Christ! Everything will be provided, all we need is YOU! Remember, moms and DADS are invited to help during the summer.

Contact Mallory (mmoore@mdpc.org) or Becky (bfunderburk@mdpc.org) with questions and to volunteer.

MDPC ministries are stewarding their budgets carefully due to the current deficit. This summer, we're producing this smaller, monochromatic bulletin as part of these efforts. Visit mdpc.org for more info on events and programs. To be placed on the email list, contact Cinnamon at cmcdade@mdpc.org.

WEEKLY FINANCIAL UPDATE

OPERATING INCOME

2015 Budget	\$ 10,500,000
Expected Income to date	\$ 3,152,199
Actual Income to Date	\$ 2,764,105
Current Income Deficit	\$ 388,094



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

WORN Pages

Matthew 8:18-22 | *Counting the Cost*

Rick Myers Preaching

Today we're continuing our current Sermon Series, entitled "Worn Pages." This week, we're looking at another favorite Bible passage. It's found in Matthew 8:18-22. At this point, Jesus was just beginning His ministry. There's excitement in the air and the city is buzzing with stories of Jesus' miracles and ministry. Many think that Jesus could very well be the Messiah who has come to save them from Roman rule. And then, two would-be followers of Jesus show up and ask to follow Jesus. They wanted to be part of the excitement. The problem is – they didn't think about what it would personally cost them and so, they made the choice to be "outsiders" rather than follow Christ. I wonder what's holding you back from faithfully following Jesus Christ?

- The first man was overly enthusiastic.
- The second man was overly cautious
- The first man's excuse was his comfort.
- The second man's excuse was his family.

So, what's your excuse for *not* following Jesus?

- The comforts of home?
- Family?
- Friends?
- School?
- Work?
- Traditions?
- Prejudice?
- A grudge?

It's easy to come up with excuses but they all seem selfish in the light of the Cross of Jesus Christ! Being a follower of Jesus, the Son of Man, is no easy choice. Jesus never promised His followers a comfortable and a carefree life. Following Jesus requires a willingness to lay it all on the line. Jesus laid it all on the line for us!

We are called to follow the One who heals the sick, who calms the storms of life, who has power over the spirit world – to follow the One who conquered death and promises us eternal life. Are you willing to pay the cost to be a faithful follower of Jesus Christ? The choice is yours to make!

QUESTIONS TO THINK ABOUT

1. How does the fact that our Lord knows what's in our hearts and what's motivating us stimulate your decisions and actions?
2. Do you think that Jesus was testing their resolve, commitment, and intentions? If He did this with you, would you pass?
3. Do hard demands discourage you from commitments? If so, why?
4. Jesus calls His followers to a higher standard of commitment. What does that mean for you, and how do you put it into practice?
5. Have you counted the cost? Are you willing to pay the price? Do you know that both are required to follow Jesus?

PRAYER

Lord of Heaven and Earth, we thank You for the truth of Your Word. Help us to follow You no matter what the cost! Grant us hearts to share Your truth with others who are searching for answers to the questions of life. May all that we do be an example of Your presence in our lives. We ask it in the Name of Jesus Christ! Amen.

