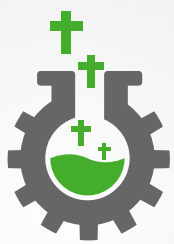


Refresh your skills and learn something new in these drop-in sessions taught by some of MDPC's best Bible teachers. Bring your Bible!



SKILLS LAB

◀ How to Study Your Bible ▶



Taught by Jim Armstrong

First Session:
Sunday, September 27
MC 122 | 11:15 AM

Part of the MDPC Bible Essentials Series

▲ register.mdpc.org

▼ ml.mdpc.org

MEN'S LIFE FOCUS

In a world of distractions, how do men stay FOCUSED?

MEN'S LIFE FOCUS

Tuesday Mornings,
September 15, 2015-
January 26, 2016

6:15-7:45 AM
Fellowship Hall
(Continental breakfast at 5:45 AM)

Register today! ml.mdpc.org

▼ study.mdpc.org

Dave's Bible Study

7 AM of The Autobiography of Jesus
Exploring Jesus' "I AM" statements in John's Gospel

This year's Wednesday evening Bible Study with Executive Pastor, Dave Steane, will cover the eight "I AM" statements of Jesus. In John's Gospel, Jesus' identity as God's Son is unpacked in rich theological terms. These "I AM" statements reveal much about the character and mission of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

Wednesdays,
October 7-December 9
6:30 PM | Summit Room

▼ marriage.mdpc.org

MDPC Marriage Retreat 2015

Saturday-Sunday, October 17-18 | \$205/couple

This is an overnight retreat with Brett and Kellie Hurst of Home Encouragement. Fee includes one night at the beautiful Woodlands Waterway Marriott, lunch on Saturday, and Sunday breakfast.

Registration is limited: marriage.mdpc.org



Prayers for Our Military

Please pray for these men and women serving in the Armed Forces, at home and abroad.

Candice Alexander's nephew:
Lt. Commander **Brian P. Alexander** | Navy

Craig Behm's son-in-law:
Jeremy Fleming | Marines

Dick Berry's grandson:
Corporal **John Hird** | Marines

Naomi Black's son:
Chaplain Lt. Commander **Peter W. Dietz** | Navy

Second Lt. **Mark Bressler** | Army Reserves

Betsy Clark's grandson:
Christopher Lenze | Marines

Paul and Susan Galvin's nephew:
Major **Joseph Galvin** | Army

Bob and Carol Giles' daughter:
Captain **Ellen Giles Jones, MD** | Army

Scott Gilley's brother:
Captain **Stephen R. Gilley** | Marines

Sergeant **Kyle Hinton** | Army

Alice Horn's nephew:
First Lieutenant **Paul Early** | Marines

Captain **James Howell** | Army

Bud and Janet Hughes' son:
Chase Hughes | Navy

Brenda and Fred Jackson's grandson:
Second Lieutenant **Charles Smith** | Army

Sharon Johnson's son:
Staff Sergeant **Richard Johnson III** | Army

Willie and Jody Jordan's grandnephew:
Lieutenant **Josh Kash** | Navy

Carolyn and Grant Judge, Jr.'s son-in-law:
Chaplain Lieutenant **Jeffrey Quinn** | Marines

James and Lori Keeter's nephew:
Staff Sergeant **Tommy Keeter** | Army

Larry and Margaret Kelminson's son-in-law:
Major General **Kevin Kennedy**

Ken and Joe Ann Kingdon's son:
Lt. Commander **Kenneth M. Kingdon** | Navy

John and Kay Krebs' son:
Lieutenant **Kory Krebs** | Navy

Barbara Mourglia's nephew:
Staff Sergeant **Brandon Macken** | Air Force

Maryann Munroe's grandnephew:
Private **Perry Connor** | Marines

David and Shannon Perry's son:
Air Craft Commander **Sean Perry** | Air Force

Don and Virginia Russell's grandson:
Sergeant **Joseph Russell** | Army

Brian and Tanya Schneider's nephew:
Holden Jenkins | Army

Joe and Jean Simmons' grandson:
Specialist **William Bruce Berry** | Army

Jane Ann Smeck's son:
BUCA Cameron Freeman | Navy

Dave and Jenny Steane's son:
Specialist **Tyler Steane** | Army

Jim and Gladys Taylor's nephew:
Gunnery Sergeant **Christopher Taylor** | Marines

Danilo Toledo and Zoraya Ávila Tellez's daughter:
Private **Daniela Toledo** | Army

Harvey Trammell's nephew:
Shawn Blake | Marines

George and Dot Uthlaut's grandnephews:
Major **David Uthlaut** | Army
Captain **Chris Uthlaut** | Army

Alejandro and Raquel Vasquez's son:
Specialist **Alan Bejarano** | Army

Bart and Barbara Westmoreland's family:
Major **Justin Westmoreland** | Air Force
Lt. Commander **Andrew Cain** | Navy
Lt. Colonel **Brian Deas** | Air Force

Ralph and Mary Wheeler's nephews:
Philip Newman | Army
Andrew Wheeler | National Guard

Pauline Wolcott's grandson:
ET3 **Robert Leeland** | Navy

David Word's son:
Captain **Andrew N. Word** | Army

Cari Wilson's husband:
Staff Sergeant **Andrew Wilson** | Air Force

An up-to-date list always is available at military.mdpc.org.

We strive for accuracy and sincerely regret any errors. Edits and additions may be sent to Eva Kaminski at ekaminski@mdpc.org.

Please notify us when you are blessed with the return home of your loved one.

Sunday, September 20, 2015



WHAT KIND OF CHURCH

Witness

2 Corinthians 5:17-20, Acts 1:8
Alf Halvorson Preaching



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

MDPC HIGHLIGHTS

Outreach Sunday 2015: Meeting Old & New Friends

Our local and global ministry partners are here this morning worshipping with us! Many of them have been praying for MDPC, the Senior Pastor Nominating Committee, and the Halvorsons over this past year. Please extend a warm MDPC welcome and celebrate our mission partners.

Reps from our various partner programs and ministries will be in the Sanctuary Lobby before and after the 9:45 and 11:15 AM services. Please drop by to say hello, and perhaps even invite a partner to sit with you!

This morning in the Lobby.

BSD's Great for Moms!

Free childcare is available during BSD on Thursday mornings for kids 3 months to 5 years, including the amazing Bible Buddies program for ages 2 and up. We want your children here on Thursdays! All women will find wonderful respite in studying God's word and enjoying fellowship through Bible Study Discussion.

Thursdays, 9:30-11:30 AM | Includes childcare and live lecture!

Sunday and Wednesday groups also are available, using the lecture audio: bsd.mdpc.org
Contact Marcia Davis with questions: mmdavis84@gmail.com, 713-598-4330

Tuesday Bible Study

Taught by MDPC's Associate Pastor, Kristin Huffman, and Director of Children's Ministries, Rachel Poysky, the Tuesday Morning Bible study will journey together through the Scriptures. In the fall we're studying parables, and in the spring we'll move to miracles!

Tuesdays, 9:00 AM | Room 122

Contact Kristin (khuffman@mdpc.org) or Rachel (rpoysky@mdpc.org) with questions.

The Case for Christ Continues

We will view and discuss *The Case for Christ-The Film*, which records highlights from Strobel's bestseller. This class will be moderated by MDPC member Jim Armstrong.

Wednesdays, September 23 and 30 | 6:30 PM | Chapel

Contact Vicki Levins with questions: vlevins@mdpc.org, 713-490-9561

Elementary Pizza Parties

Come eat pizza and play games at your grade's Pizza Party!

K & 1st Grade: Sunday, September 27 | 12:30-2:30 PM

2nd & 3rd Grade: Sunday, October 25 | 12:30-2:30 PM

4th & 5th Grade: Friday, November 13 | 6:00-8:30 PM

Contact Mallory Moore: mmoore@mdpc.org or 713-490-9262

The Venturers at MDPC present

Harris County: Who We Are, Where We Are, & Where We're Going

In October, the Venturers welcome Harris County Judge Edward M. Emmett.

The Venturers at MDPC is a senior adult fellowship group. Join them each month for a delicious dinner and an informative and educational program!

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

Westchase Hilton (9999 Westheimer Road)

RSVP by Wednesday, September 30 to Chuck & Linnie Edwards:

9350 Shady Lane Circle, 77063 (713-785-7115)

The Well: What Do We Fear?

Women in all life stages are coming together to hear a panel of real, honest women talk about the things they fear, and how Christ has brought peace in the midst of dark places. Our speakers include MDPC members Billie Carole McMillan, Jill Gilbert, Amber Hicks, and Sarah Stone.

Meet us at The Well, a gathering place for women of all ages to commune and connect. We'll have food, and free childcare (email childcare.mdpc.org to reserve a spot)!

Wednesday, October 28 | 6:30-8:00 PM | Chapel

women.mdpc.org

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

MDPC WORSHIP

*Please stand if able.

CCLI # 182374

Sermon Notes are available from the ushers and at the Connection Center and Front Office.

8:30 BLENDED SERVICE

GATHERING MUSIC

WELCOME

Dave Steane

*SONGS OF PRAISE

How Great Thou Art
Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

O STORE GUD
arr. Gómez

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE

Kristin Huffman

SONG OF PREPARATION

This Is My Father's World

TERRA BEATA

GIFTS OF GRATITUDE

Raised to Life

arr. Elevation Worship

MESSAGE

What Kind of Church? / Witness
2 Corinthians 5:17-20, Acts 1:8 (NRSV)

Alf Halvorson

9:45 CONTEMPORARY SERVICE

WORSHIP INVITATION

Meliza Gómez | Brian García

*WORSHIP MUSIC

Worship Team

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE

Kristin Huffman

WELCOME

Dave Steane

OUTREACH MOMENT

GIFTS OF GRATITUDE

MESSAGE

What Kind of Church? / Witness
2 Corinthians 5:17-20, Acts 1:8 (NRSV)

Alf Halvorson

11:15 TRADITIONAL SERVICE

PRELUDE

Psalm Prelude

Herbert Howells (1892-1983)

WELCOME AND CALL TO WORSHIP

Dave Steane

CHORAL INTROIT

Jesus Shall Reign

arr. Carl J. Nygard (b. 1947)

*HYMN OF PRAISE

God, You Spin the Whirling Planets

#285; Vs. 1, 2, 3 | AUSTRIAN HYMN

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE

Kristin Huffman

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

CHORAL ANTHEM

A New Creation

Rene Clausen (b. 1953)

HYMN OF CELEBRATION

Great Is Thy Faithfulness

#276; Vs. 1 | FAITHFULNESS

OUTREACH MOMENT

OFFERTORY

Witness

arr. Jack Halloran (1916-1997)

MESSAGE

What Kind of Church? / Witness
2 Corinthians 5:17-20, Acts 1:8 (NRSV)

Alf Halvorson

*HYMN OF RESPONSE

Fairest Lord Jesus

#306; Vs. 1, 3 | CRUSADERS' HYMN

POSTLUDE

Toccata

Charles-Marie Widor (1844-1937)

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

Brandon Gaide | Associate Pastor for Next Gen

Ginny Glass | Communications & Media Dir.

Meliza Gómez | Contemporary Music Dir.

Luke Gordon | Youth Ministries Dir.

Alf Halvorson | Senior Pastor

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

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 Salvation Army is an international evangelical Christian ministry that operates shelters in Houston. Its mission is to preach the Gospel while meeting the needs of the homeless through comprehensive care and programs that foster recovery.

salvationarmyhouston.org

The mission of **Santa Maria Hostel** is to empower women with children to become alcohol and drug free. It is one of few substance abuse treatment centers that provides a continuum of care for pregnant and parenting women and their children.

santamariahostel.org

African Enterprise (AE) shares the love of Jesus through evangelism, reconciliation, and leadership and community development. It ministers to crises such as AIDS and infant mortality, and gives prostitutes and single mothers vocational direction.

africanenterprise.org

WEEKLY FINANCIAL UPDATE

OPERATING INCOME

2015 Budget \$ 10,500,000

Expected Income to date \$ 5,542,379

Actual Income to date \$ 5,325,376

Current Income Deficit \$ 217,003

Pictured: MDPC partners with Christian outreach organization, African Enterprise, in an HIV and immunization initiative in Kampala, Uganda.



MDPC Turns 60...

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

Pictured above is part of a fun panoramic shot of Outreach Sunday in 1989. Kids, look closely to see how we achieved panoramas in the 80s: The cameraman tells everyone to hold still, clicks, turns 30 degrees right, clicks, then tapes the two pictures together. Desktop media magic at its best!

Do you have classic MDPC photos? Email scans to Eva Kaminski (ekaminski@mdpc.org) or drop prints at the Front Office. Originals will be returned.

Please Pray...

Today's chancel flowers are given

- in memory of **Gay Hudson**, by Barbara Schroeder and Stefan Kreuzer.

The Red Rose is in honor of

- Charlotte Claire Watson**, born September 14, 2015, to Claire and Graeme Watson. Charlotte is the granddaughter of Andrew and Gillian Brooks.

MDPC members recently released from the hospital:

- Dottie Williams**
- Jo Pyle**



MDPC

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

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



WHAT KIND OF CHURCH?

Witness

Acts 1:8 and 2 Corinthians 5:17-20 (NRSV)

Rev. Dr. Alf Halvorson Preaching

Over the last few weeks we have looked at “What Kind of Church?,” regarding Vision and Passion. Today we look from Scripture at two of the key roles Christians are asked to take on as followers of Jesus Christ: *Witnesses* and *Ambassadors*.

I started by coming at the issue from the back door and asking people to think about what items are on their “bucket list”—that list of things they would love to do before they die.

1. What are some items on your bucket list? Why are they on your list?
2. I mentioned that an ESPN poll revealed that the #1 sporting event most fans wanted to attend some time in their life was The Masters Golf Tournament. What struck you as I shared about my 2007 visit to Augusta National with my dad?
3. Acts 1:8 says, “You will be My witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” A *witness* tells the truth about what he/she has seen and heard. How did I serve as a witness regarding my trip to The Masters? How did Zack Johnson serve as a witness to his faith in Christ after he won?
4. In 2 Corinthians 5:17, the Apostle Paul shares that we become new creatures when we invite Christ into our lives. There is a fresh start. The old life disappears, and new life burgeons. How is that true and not true for you?
5. In verses 18 and 19, we are given the ministry of reconciliation by Christ—bringing parties together who have been estranged. We are to help people come close to God and to each other. Where do you see Christians and MDPC doing this?
6. In verse 20, Paul says, “so we are *ambassadors* for Christ, since God is making His appeal through us.” An ambassador is the King’s representative. In the East, the ambassador was the emperor’s voice and hands and feet in a far country when the emperor could not be physically present. The ambassador represents and reveals the kingdom he or she serves. How did the men in the “Green Jackets” at Augusta National Golf Course represent that Kingdom my dad and me?
7. I said, “It would be a shame if we witnessed to and were an ambassador for our bucket list items more than our Savior.” How can you personally be a winsome witness and an enthusiastic ambassador for Christ, both inside and outside these walls?
8. Is there an “outreach partnership” you might be called to explore and support with your time and talent after seeing so many witnesses/ambassadors Sunday?

