



**RESCHEDULED!** **THE WELL: WHAT DO WE FEAR?**

Continuing all the topics presented together to meet a panel of four trained women talk about how things they fear, and how Christ has brought peace to the midst of dark places.

**NEW DATE: WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 11**  
6:30-8:00 PM • CHAPEL

▲ [thewell.mdpc.org](http://thewell.mdpc.org)

▼ [women.mdpc.org](http://women.mdpc.org)



*Refugee Thanksgiving Dinner*

We need volunteers to offer God's grace and compassion to refugees who live near MDPC. Sign up now to serve as a table host or waiter.

**Tuesday, November 24**  
Dinner 6:00-9:00 PM | Fellowship Hall  
(Volunteers serve 5:30-9:00 PM)

Contact Amy with questions: [adelgado@mdpc.org](mailto:adelgado@mdpc.org)

▲ [register.mdpc.org](http://register.mdpc.org)

▼ [blessfriday.mdpc.org](http://blessfriday.mdpc.org)



Sunday, November 8, 2015

*The Heart of the Matter*

— Luke 12:15-21, 33-34

Hearts Touched. Lives Changed.



Therefore, I am going to allure her; I will lead her into the wilderness and speak tenderly to her. —Hosea 2:14

When was the last time you sat still and felt your breath slow? Join us for a spiritual retreat as we commune with God and one another in His beautiful creation. We will delight in God's goodness and love for His daughters.

**Saturday, November 14**  
9:30 AM to 4:00 PM  
Brenham, Texas (option to stay overnight)

The cost of the retreat is \$20, and spots are limited to the first 20 women who sign up.


▼ [pip.mdpc.org](http://pip.mdpc.org)



**BLESS FRIDAY**  
BLACK FRIDAY IS ABOUT SHOPPING  
BLESS FRIDAY IS ABOUT SERVING

Friday, November 27  
[blessfriday.mdpc.org](http://blessfriday.mdpc.org)

▼ [mdpc.org](http://mdpc.org)

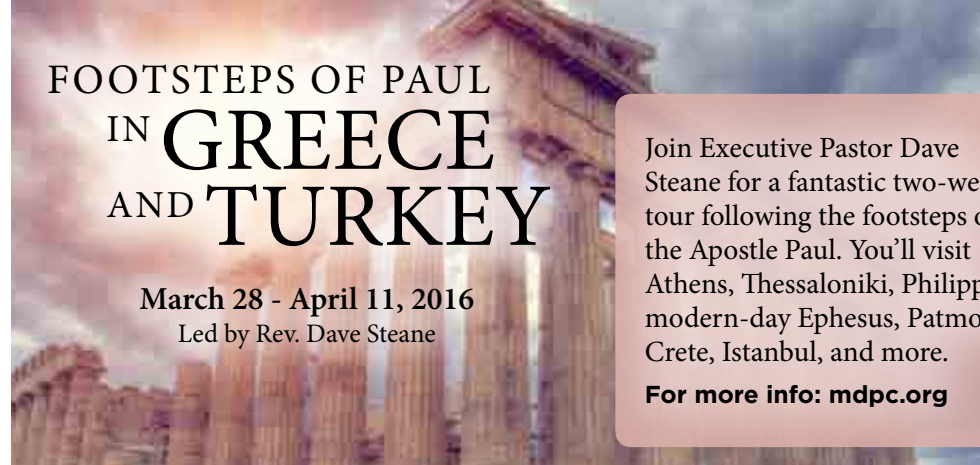


**Partner In Prayer 2016**

Your time given through PIP ensures thousands of people are prayed for every day! As Pastor Alf writes in his invitation letter, "Prayer is one of the key avenues God uses to transform us. We need your help in this ministry, but helping will help you grow in your faith as well."

To be a 2016 Partner In Prayer, register at [pip.mdpc.org](http://pip.mdpc.org).

▼ [local.mdpc.org](http://local.mdpc.org)



**FOOTSTEPS OF PAUL IN GREECE AND TURKEY**

March 28 - April 11, 2016  
Led by Rev. Dave Steane

Join Executive Pastor Dave Steane for a fantastic two-week tour following the footsteps of the Apostle Paul. You'll visit Athens, Thessaloniki, Philippi, modern-day Ephesus, Patmos, Crete, Istanbul, and more.

**For more info: [mdpc.org](http://mdpc.org)**


▼ [seniors.mdpc.org](http://seniors.mdpc.org)



**Kids' Meals**  
Monthly Service Opportunity

Help us feed the nearly 2,200 preschool children Kids' Meals delivers to daily. MDPC volunteers are instrumental in providing one day's delivery per month! Please bring two loaves of white or wheat sandwich bread to the project.

**Wednesday, November 11**  
5:00 PM | Fellowship Hall



*Prime Timers*

**The 7 Keys for Healthy Aging**  
Sally Davis, RN, MSN | Amazing Place Health Services Director

Learn about the lifestyle habits most directly under your control to increase your likelihood of aging well.

**Tuesday, November 17 | Fellowship Hall**  
Free Program: 10:30 AM  
Lunch (\$9.50): Noon

To RSVP for lunch, drop check (\$9.50) made out to MDPC Prime Timers at Front Office, Attention: Prime Timers. Check must be received by November 11! Call Evelyn Cook with questions: 713-504-2919.



**A Summons**  
*Alf Halvarson preaching*



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



## MDPC HIGHLIGHTS

### Dave's Bible Study

Looking for a great mid-week Bible Study? Dave's Bible Study, led by Executive Pastor, Dave Steane, meets on Wednesday evenings and is focusing on the eight "I AM statements of Jesus. In John's Gospel, Jesus' identity as God's Son is unpacked in rich theological terms in this lecture-style class.

**Wednesdays, 6:30 PM | Summit Room**

### Sewing for Missions Crafts

There won't be a holiday sale this year, but crafts from last year are available! Stop by on Thursday mornings to see what we have. You can donate what you see fit, or just give a lovingly made piece a good home. Festive fall pumpkins also are available for sale.

**Thursdays, 9:00 AM-Noon | CLC 170**

Contact Pat Ikard with questions: 713-461-3654

### Spring Break Mission Trip – ALASKA

Looking for a cool (cold!) Spring Break opportunity for your family? Come hear about a service trip planned for the week of March 14 in Anchorage, Alaska. We're looking for a few great families (second graders and older), couples, or individuals to pull out their parkas and help conduct a VBS program for missionary children. Plus a day or two of Alaska fun!

**Informational meeting: Sunday, November 15 | 12:30 PM | Parlor**

Contact Amy Delgado: adelgado@mdpc.org

### Help Wanted: Special Blessings and Safe Haven

Special Blessings (Special Needs Ministry) and Safe Haven (Foster Care & Adoption Ministry) are in need of adults and teens to volunteer on Sunday mornings, as well as for monthly Parents' Night Out events. No experience is necessary and no prep work is required. We just need people to show up and love on some really neat kids!

Please contact Keri Mosk for more information: kmosk@mdpc.org or 713-490-9265

### Thanksgiving Meal-in-a-Bag

Families recommended by school counselors at local elementary schools will be given these bags of food, fresh produce, and a turkey. Last year we served 750 families! Just fill a paper grocery bag with the items listed below and **return it to MDPC by November 16.**

- 2 cans corn
- 1 can fruit
- 1 bottle vegetable oil
- 1 can jalapenos
- 1 can tomatoes/sauce
- 2 pkg. cookies
- 1 pkg. spaghetti
- 1 can olives
- 1 2-lb bag rice

Contact Maritza Pujols: mpujols@mdpc.org or 713-490-9556

### 4th & 5th Grade Pizza Party

Come eat pizza & play games at a Pizza Party for 4th/5th graders!

**Friday, November 13 | 6:00-8:30 PM**

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

### Help Struggling Families Have a Happy Thanksgiving

MDPC has been supporting East Spring Branch Food Pantry for years, and it recently was named "Best Food Pantry in Houston" by the Houston Food Bank! It urgently needs able-bodied men to help unload the trucks on Thursday mornings (about 1 hour of work).

**Thursdays | 8:00 AM | Holy Cross Lutheran (7901 Westview, 77055)**

Contact Mary White for information: 281-799-6752

### Use Your Business Skills: Newspring Business Plan Competition

Over the past eight years, over 100 MDPC members have participated as advisers to community college students, helping them draft business plans. It's a great opportunity to witness to your Christian faith in a secular world. Advisers work in pairs, mentoring their contestants throughout this annual competition.

**Begins January 2016**

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

## MDPC WORSHIP

\*Please stand if able.

CCLI # 182374

### 8:30 BLENDED SERVICE

WELCOME Dave Steane

\*SONGS OF PRAISE

\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION & ASSURANCE Kristin Huffman

SONG OF PREPARATION

GIFTS OF GRATITUDE

MESSAGE *The Heart of the Matter: A Summons* Alf Halvorson

RENEWING MY PERSONAL COVENANT WITH GOD

SONG OF CELEBRATION

### 9:45 CONTEMPORARY SERVICE

WORSHIP INVITATION Meliza Gómez

\*WORSHIP MUSIC

\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION & ASSURANCE Kristin Huffman

GIFTS OF GRATITUDE

MESSAGE *The Heart of the Matter: A Summons* Alf Halvorson

RENEWING MY PERSONAL COVENANT WITH GOD

SONG OF CELEBRATION

### 11:15 TRADITIONAL SERVICE

PRELUDES *Fantasia and Toccata* Johann Pachelbel (1653-1706)

WELCOME AND CALL TO WORSHIP Dave Steane

\*HYMN OF PRAISE *Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty* #138; Vs. 1, 2, 3, 4 | NICAEA

\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE Christyn Knoop

\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH from Romans 8

OFFERTORY *A Covenant Prayer* Dan Forrest (b. 1978)  
Lisa Borik, Megan Berti, Dashiell Waterbury, and James Rodriguez, Choral Ensemble

MESSAGE *The Heart of the Matter: A Summons* Alf Halvorson

RENEWING MY PERSONAL COVENANT WITH GOD

ANTHEM OF DEDICATION *Thou Gracious God, Whose Mercy Lends* Mack Wilberg (b. 1955)

POSTLUDE *God's Blessing Sends Us Forth* Lani Smith

## 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 Kookan | 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.



### MDPC Turns 60...

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

The Hey Lollies Square Dance club was organized at MDPC in 1965. This picture of their first-ever "learners' class" was taken in Fellowship Hall. You can still get involved with this fun, tight knit, and welcoming group. Visit [heyloilies.org](http://heyloilies.org).

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

### Ministry Partners

Pray for these MDPC partners working to make a difference in the lives of others:

**Star of Hope** is a Christ-centered mission for men, women, and children that provides shelter, meals, counseling, education, and childcare. It introduces each child to a loving relationship with Jesus. SOH programs support spiritual growth, employment, and recovery from substance abuse.

[sohmission.org](http://sohmission.org)

**United Campus Ministry** shares the transforming power of God's love at colleges throughout Houston by inviting students, faculty, and staff into a personal relationship with Christ. Through Bible studies, fellowship, and mission trips, it prepares students to be leaders in the faith communities. [ucmhouston.com](http://ucmhouston.com)

**Far East Broadcasting Company** (FEBC) overcomes the barriers of poverty, geography, and persecution to share Christ's love through radio and internet broadcasts in more than 160 languages. FEBC's projects help the poor in Indonesia and Vietnam receive compassionate care along with the Word of God. [febco.org](http://febco.org)

### Please Pray...

**The White Rose is in memory of**  
• Beverly Jones, who passed away on October 22, 2015.

**The Red Rose is in honor of**  
• Hudson Dean Canfield, born October 15, 2015, to Ben and Kathryn Canfield. Hudson is the grandson of Jana and Chase Canfield.

### WEEKLY FINANCIAL UPDATE

OPERATING INCOME	
2015 Budget	\$ 10,500,000
Expected Income to date	\$ 6,599,118
Actual Income to date	\$ 6,378,160
<b>Current Income Deficit</b>	<b>\$ 220,958</b>

Pictured: Supported by your giving, Spring Spirit Baseball brings positive role models into the lives of at-risk kids - and gives them a place to play!



Loving God. Proclaiming Christ. Living Generously. Engaging All.  
11612 Memorial Drive | Houston, Texas 77024 | [mdpc.org](http://mdpc.org) | 713-782-1710

## *Heart of the Matter*

### *A Summons*

Matthew 25:14-30

Rev. Dr. Alf Halvorson Preaching

This is our last sermon in the Generosity Series for 2015, culminating in bringing our pledges forward as an act of worship on Covenant Sunday. We have looked at Souls, Sowing, the Source, and now A Summons. Jesus tells a parable that invites (summons) us to receive talents from God and then put them into practice for the Kingdom.

1. In verse 14, the master entrusts his property to his servants. Have you ever thought that you have been given real responsibility until the Master returns? When did parents or a boss or a neighbor give you real responsibility over valuable possessions? What did you do with that responsibility?
2. In verse 15, the master gives to one 5 talents, to another 2 talents, to another 1 talent. Is that fair? Are we all equal in giftedness or are some more talented than others? What burden and blessing is there if you have 1 talent or 5 talents?
3. In verses 16-18, how did the three respond to the gift? What does the difference in use mean to you?
4. In verse 19, the master returns and there is an accounting. What is your belief about Christ's return? How does Jesus judge the peoples of the world? What (in verses 20-23 or 28-30 or any part of the parable) supports or contradicts your view?
5. In verse 24-27, the 1-talent man has a very different view of the master than the other two seem to have. How does our view of God influence how we live or don't live for God?
6. When have you heard the words, "Well done, good and trustworthy servant" at work or home or in the faith? When have you heard, "You wicked and lazy slave"?
7. I told a story about Russ and Evelyn Grander, from my previous church. They pledged generously, gave to projects, left a % of their estate to the church in their will. Russ said, "You aren't really wealthy until you have something money can't buy; the greatest things in life aren't things. Giving teaches that truth." Do you agree with him? Why or why not?
8. This year, how can you avoid being the 1-talent man and instead thrive being the 2 or 5-talent individual? Where does your pledge fit in the equation?

