

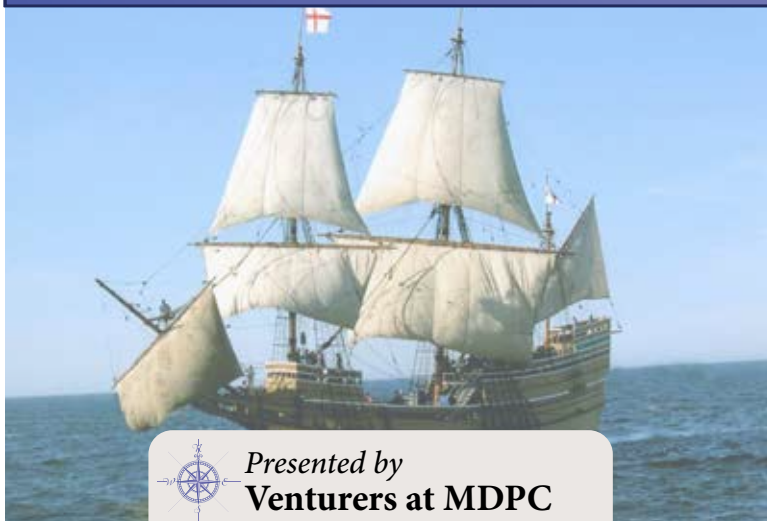


# Senior Adults

seniors.mdpc.org

Memorial Drive Presbyterian Church • Houston, Texas

January 2021



Presented by  
**Venturers at MDPC**

## The Mayflower Sails Again Speaker Steve Williams



**H**ouston resident Steve Williams is a descendant of Mayflower passenger John Howland. The Mayflower II was built in

the UK in 1956 as a gift to the U.S. for our partnership in WWII. The reproduction sailed the Atlantic and was berthed in Plymouth, MA. It began to deteriorate from the harsh winters and all the visitors on board over many years. The recent overhaul was completed in 2019 at the DuPont Restoration Facility at Mystic Seaport, Connecticut. She sailed back to Plymouth in 2020 to celebrate the 400th year anniversary of the landing of the Mayflower.

### Monday, January 4, 2021

**This meeting will be conducted via Zoom.** All paid Venturers members will receive an email with the Zoom link on Monday morning. The program will begin at 7:00 PM, but members can begin logging on at 6:55 PM.

To check membership status, contact Connie Whelchel: [connie2whelchel@gmail.com](mailto:connie2whelchel@gmail.com), 713-785-7701



## Lunch Via Zoom! A Virtual Gathering of Friends

**H**appy New Year! We hope all of you have had a safe, socially distanced, and happy holiday season. We will all look back on 2020 as the year like no other. Join us to have lunch together once again – virtually! Everyone will bring a delicious lunch and join a Zoom get-together from your own home. We can at least see each other's faces again!

Please call or email Tammy by **Wednesday, January 13** if you are interested in being there. You will be emailed the Zoom link in advance. Those of us who have been attending have been so glad to see each other “in person”! Make it your New Year's Resolution to join us, even if you have not attended before now! See you on January 19!

### Tuesday, January 19, 2021

11:30 AM on Zoom

Please contact Tammy by Wednesday, January 13 at 832-816-6254 or [uwphoto.2@sbcglobal.net](mailto:uwphoto.2@sbcglobal.net). She will email you the Zoom link in advance.

## A Message from Pastor Alf

There is something truly refreshing about seeing a new calendar (2021) before us as we leave behind the old and in too many ways toxic one of 2020. However, the emotional impact of the pandemic has been huge and still lingers. Isolation, loneliness, grieving the loss of loved ones, and online fatigue are real, jarring, cumulative, and ongoing. Where do we find hope in 2021 and how do we nurture resilience and joy in the new year?

John 15:15 says, “I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father.” One of the verses of the popular hymn “What a Friend We Have in Jesus” says, “Have we trials and temptations? Is there trouble anywhere? We should never be discouraged; take it to the Lord in prayer! Can we find a friend so faithful, who will all our sorrows share? Jesus knows our every weakness; take it to the Lord in Prayer.” Prayer (with connection to Jesus) obviously is our first and best hope.

However, the faith also gives us flesh and blood brothers and sisters for support, encouragement, and sometimes challenge. I talked in my first Men’s Life talk of last year about C. S. Lewis’ insights on friendship. In *Surprised by Joy*, Lewis writes about two of his best friends, Owen Barfield and Arthur Jenkins. He explains, “There is a sense in which Arthur and Barfield are the types of every man’s First Friend and Second Friend. The First is the alter ego, the man who first reveals to you that you are not alone in the world by turning out (beyond hope) to share all your most secret delights. There is nothing to be overcome in making him your friend; he and you join like raindrops on a window. But the Second Friend is the man who disagrees with you about everything. He is not so much the alter ego as the anti-self. Of course he shares your interests, otherwise he would not

## Venturers President’s Message

Dear Venturers,

We capped our strange 2020 year with a fun Zoom Christmas party. It was great to see your faces and hear your stories! In 2021, we will continue to hold our meetings by Zoom, starting on January 4. In the meantime, celebrate the best Christmas gift of all time, our Lord Jesus Christ!

Your President,  
Bart Henson

become your friend at all. But he has approached them all at a different angle. He has read all the right books but has got the wrong thing out of everyone. It is as if he spoke your language but mispronounced it. How can he be so nearly right and yet, invariably, just not right? When you set out to correct his heresies, you find that he forsooth had decided to correct yours! And then you go at it, hammer and tongs, far into the night, night after night, or walking through fine country that neither gives a glance to, each learning the weight of the other’s punches, and often more like mutually respectful enemies than friends. Actually (though it never seems so at the time) you modify one another’s thought; out of this perpetual dogfight a community of mind and deep affection emerges. But I think he changed me a good deal more than I him.”

See, that is why Senior Adult Ministries at MDPC are so key. They expose us to our First Friend and our Second Friend; the Alter Ego and the Anti-self. We need both—from Jesus and from other humans. Do you have both? If not, you can nurture those through the various programs and opportunities of Venturers and beyond ahead this new year. And are you both kinds of friends to others? Because Jesus is friend to us, we must befriend others. May you find joy in 2021 through growing and ever more fruitful and fulfilling friendships!