



MDPC

Memorial Drive Presbyterian Church

FIRST QUARTER FOCUS

Look what's coming up at MDPC!

mdpc.org • 713-782-1710

January-March 2018

explore

life
faith
meaning

Tuesdays, January 23-April 10

Learn more and register: alpha.mdpc.org

Alpha is an opportunity to explore the meaning of life in an informal, fun, and friendly environment.

WHAT HAPPENS AT ALPHA?

A typical evening consists of a meal, a short talk about the Christian faith, and small group discussion. Talks cover a range of topics including "Who is Jesus?" and "Why and how do I pray?"

WHO IS ALPHA FOR?

Alpha is for everyone. No question is out of bounds and you are free to discuss as much or as little as you wish. We don't assume any knowledge of or belief in Christianity, anyone is welcome.

WHEN IS ALPHA?

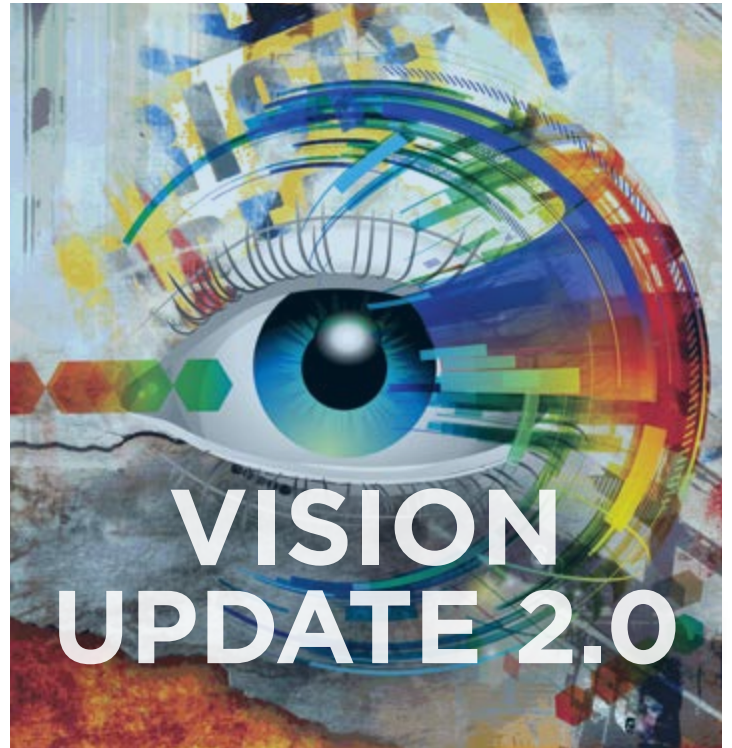
The next Alpha course at MDPC begins Tuesday, January 23. Bring a friend and come for a catered meal and a brief talk explaining the course. There is no pressure to return from week to week.

WANT TO KNOW MORE?

For more information on the Alpha Course, how to sign up, or how to help with the ministry, email Dan Aikins at daikins@mdpc.org.

MDPC
Advantage
GOAL

Alpha



Pastor Alf will lead a congregational discussion of the MDPC Advantage Goals, including a look back at 2017, and vision casting for the year ahead.

Come and participate in this important time in our church's future!

Wednesday, January 31
6:30 PM • Chapel

Come early to enjoy Wednesday Night Dinner, served 5:00-6:30 PM. View the menu and more at food.mdpc.org.

Learn more about MDPC's Advantage Goals:
goals.mdpc.org

RENOVATE

JANUARY 23 - 25, 2018

HOUSTON, TX

The ECO 2018 National Gathering is in Houston this year, at Downtown's Hilton Americas Hotel. Many volunteer opportunities are available to assist with the conference.

Volunteers get free admission to the National Gathering on the day they work!

The needs are as follows:

Transportation: travel to First Presbyterian Houston to load conference materials for transportation to the Hilton Americas; also assist with unloading and setup.

Needed January 21

Check in Desk Staff: greet attendees, hand out badges and packets, and answer basic questions. (training provided).

Needed January 22, 23, and 25

Check in Greeters: welcome conference attendees in the hotel as guests arrive (training provided).

Needed January 22 and 23

Session Greeters: direct participants to their breakout sessions; staff ballroom doors and welcome people (training provided).

Needed January 23 and 24

Synod Meeting Staff: assist in the operation of the Synod meeting and in collecting voting devices.

Needed January 25

Volunteers can sign up at ECO.mdpc.org.

For more information on the National Gathering, please visit econationalgathering.org.



ECO NATIONAL GATHERING

Deadly Sins and Saving Virtues

Lenten Sermon Series

On Ash Wednesday, Pastor Alf will begin a Lenten Sermon Series on the Seven Deadly Sins and Their Saving Virtues. The first sermon in the series will be introduced at the Ash Wednesday Services on **February 14** (Noon in the Amphitheater, or 6:30 PM in the Sanctuary).

We're excited to announce that several artists from the MDPC community will participate in the 7-part series with uniquely painted compositions depicting each topic.

Wednesday, Feb. 14	<i>From Pride to Humility</i>
Sunday, Feb. 18	<i>From Envy to Concern</i>
Sunday, Feb. 25*	<i>From Sloth to Caring</i>
Sunday, Mar. 4	<i>From Anger to Faith</i>
Sunday, Mar. 11	<i>From Greed to Contentment</i>
Sunday, Mar. 18	<i>From Lust to Love</i>
Sunday, Mar. 25	<i>From Gluttony to Balance</i>

*This is the MDPC Church in the City service day, and the worship and message will be presented on the bus if you are traveling to the Houston Food Bank, or in the Chapel if you are participating in projects at MDPC.

Lenten Small Group Study

A team led by MDPC's Equipping Pastor Clay Brown has prepared a 6-week Lenten Small Group Study as a companion guide to Pastor Alf's sermon series. Your existing Sunday School Class or Small Group may choose to use the curriculum, or, you're invited to study on your own or join a specially-formed Lenten group. We hope as many of our congregation as possible will participate in this study to sync our hearts and minds as we prepare for the Easter season! To learn more, visit lenten.mdpc.org.

MDPC
Advantage
GOAL



Gary Haugen

CEO and Founder of
International Justice Mission

February 22 • 7:00 PM

Join us on February 22 to hear one of today's most passionate voices in the cause of anti-slavery. Before founding International Justice Mission in 1997, Gary was a human rights attorney for the U.S. Department of Justice, where he focused on crimes of police misconduct. In 1994, he served as the Director of the United Nations' investigation in the aftermath of the Rwandan genocide. In this role, he led an international team of lawyers, criminal prosecutors, law enforcement officers, and forensics experts to gather evidence that would eventually be used to bring the perpetrators of the genocide to justice. Gary received a B.A. in Social Studies from Harvard University, and a J.D. from the University of Chicago.

Gary's anti-slavery work has been recognized by the U.S. State Department, and featured in major publications such as *The New York Times*, *Forbes*, *U.S. News and World Report*, and *The New Yorker*. He is the author of several books, including *Good News About Injustice* and, most recently, *The Locust Effect: Why the End of Poverty Requires the End of Violence*. Gary was invited to share the themes of *The Locust Effect* at the annual TED Conference in a talk entitled *The hidden reason for poverty that the world needs to address now*.

Watch Gary's TED Talk for a great primer before the February 22nd event. Quick link to the talk at haugen.mdpc.org.

This event serves the dual purpose of meeting two of our MDPC Advantage Goals: four dynamic speakers each year and The MDPC Justice Initiative.

Register: justice.mdpc.org



MDPC

CHURCH IN THE CITY

A special task force has been hard at work preparing a Sunday morning of service to meet the MDPC Advantage Goal of serving together as a church body. On **Sunday, February 25**, step out of your comfort zone when the church leaves the building! Instead of our usual service schedule, we will meet at 8:00 AM for sign-in before boarding pre-assigned buses that will depart the church at 8:30 AM. To register or to learn more about the schedule and the service projects, visit CITC.mdpc.org.

Children 6 and older can participate at the Houston Food Bank; for those age 3-5, a parent is required to stay here at MDPC to participate in special service projects for kids and their parents. This option is also available for individuals with mobility issues.

Childcare is provided for children 2 and under at MDPC for those serving at the church or at HFB.

02.25.18





Bake Cookies for U.S. Troops

This is a call to MDPC families to put on aprons, dig out their bowls and spoons, and bake! Each year, the Sewing for Missions group bakes cookies to send to our military that have an APO or FPO address. Our soldiers receive any gift with hearts full of gratitude - but it's the homemade cookies they really crave.

Put this on your calendar, and keep in mind that cookies can be baked ahead of time and frozen! Cookie care packages assembly is February 1. You can drop off cookies, or stay to help. Everyone is welcome!

Thursday, February 1
CLC 170 | 9:00 AM-1:00 PM

Contact Pat Ikard with questions:
pjikard@comcast.net, 713-303-1101



Kids' Meals Monthly Service Project

One of MDPC's Advantage Goals is fighting childhood food insecurity. Our Hunger Initiative task force wants to engage the congregation in ways large and small in the fight to keep Houston-area kids fed. In Houston, one in four preschool children goes to bed hungry - you can make sure there is one less empty tummy! Give one hour of your time, bring FOUR loaves of bread per sandwich-maker, and make sandwiches for Kids' Meals. That's all it takes to make a difference.

Wednesdays, February 7, March 14
4:30-6:00 PM | Fellowship Hall

Contact Julie with questions:
hempeljulie@gmail.com



MDPC
Advantage
GOAL



YOUTH *Mission Trips*


Summer 2018

Middle School Mission Trip
San Antonio • June 3-9

High School Mission Trip
Miami, FL • June 16-22

6th Grade Mission Trip
Houston • June 27-28

Registration now open:
youthmissions.mdpc.org




A few spots left!

GREECE

A 13-day Walk in the Footsteps of Paul

Includes 4-night Greek Isles Cruise with Optional Rome Extension

Hosted by Pastor Alf and Shari Halvorson



Visiting: Kavala, Philippi, Thessaloniki, Meteora, Athens, Corinth, Mars Hill and more...


Travel Dates: **June 11-23, 2018**

Visit greece.mdpc.org for details.

Romp through the New Testament


with Rachel Poysky and Martha Moore

We believe that God invites us to experience the good life through His Word. Gather with others to seek God through study, prayer, and the sharing of community. There's always room for one more!



Tuesdays, 9:00-10:00 AM | MC 122
marthamoore@mdpc.org


New Member Classes



Discover MDPC With Alf
Sunday, January 21
10:45-11:10 AM
Gathering Room

New Member Class Intensive
The normally four-week New Member class series is compressed into an evening and a morning.
Friday PM & Saturday AM
February 2 & 3 | Parlor

More info: discover.mdpc.org



HARVEY AFTERCARE

MDPC Women are hosting a gathering for women seeking hope and blessings. Guests will be treated to live music, savory appetizers, and desserts.

Monday, January 22 | 7:00-8:30 PM

MDPC, please invite your friends, neighbors, co-workers...any woman you know who could use some extra love in the New Year. There is no charge for this event, but please reserve your space.

Register at newyear.mdpc.org.
Free childcare by reservation:
childcare@mdpc.org

THE MUSIC BOX KIDS' CHOIR


Learn about music and choral singing in a fun and worshipful environment.

We'll put on seasonal programs, and even have a chance to lead worship on Sunday!

All kids in grades K-5 are welcome.

Sign up at themusicbox.mdpc.org.

WEDNESDAYS, JANUARY 31-MARCH 28
4:45-5:30 PM | CHAPEL



PROGRAM DIRECTOR:
MELIZA GÓMEZ,
MDPC CONTEMPORARY
MUSIC DIRECTOR



The MDPC Sanctuary Choir is beginning preparations for its **April 15** concert. If you don't have time for a weekly commitment, singing in the concert might be for you! Join us for two upcoming workshops where you can learn the music and enjoy the fellowship of the choir. All youth and adults are invited.

Saturdays, Feb. 3 and Mar. 3
9:30 AM-12:30 PM
Choir Room

Childcare provided with reservations. For more info, contact Tracy Stidam at tstidam@mdpc.org.

Mardi Gras

All-Church Lunch
Mardi Gras Themed Menu

Sunday, February 11
(2nd Sunday due to Super Bowl)
Served 11:15 AM-12:30 PM

food.mdpc.org

Girls' Getaway

Gather for a weekend of refreshment, laughter, and hope. Sandy Schultz, President/CEO at The WorkFaith Connection, will be teaching us about the "springs to come" in our life.

The weekend will be full of relaxing and rejuvenating activities including making our own succulent gardens.

All adult women welcome, so invite a friend, neighbor, mother, or sister and we'll see you there!

Friday-Sunday, February 9-11
 Bishop's Landing RV Resort | Willis, TX
 Cost \$150
 Register: getaway.mdpc.org



For Young Engaged & Marrieds, 20s & 30s

The 5 Love Languages

GARY CHAPMAN'S #1 NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER

Looking for a marriage tune-up?
 Want to figure out now what will bring a lifetime of love?
 Ready to be in a small group together?

Sundays, February 11-March 25
11:00 AM | MC 116




Details and registration:
fivelove.mdpc.org

Walking the Mourner's Path™
 TRANSFORMING GRIEF INTO JOYFUL LIVING

This Christ-centered eight-week grief program is limited to ten participants, creating a safe place to share feelings with each other and with God. Two trained facilitators will guide the group.

Thursdays
Feb. 22-Apr. 19
3:30-5:00 PM
Chapel Bride's Room (116)



Register online:
grief.mdpc.org

JOURNEY to the CROSS

A Guided Walk to Experience the Sights and Sounds of Holy Week

Good Friday, March 30
Tours begin in the Chapel at 9:30 AM
Last tour at 11:00 AM
 Register to receive a tour time:
journey.mdpc.org

JUNIOR JOURNEY to the CROSS
 Preschoolers and their parents are invited to experience Junior Journey to the Cross!
Open 9:30-11:30 AM
 Come anytime!

Contact Alicia Boykin with questions:
aboykin@mdpc.org
 or 713-490-9261





Christian Diaz has been on the MDPC staff since 2016 as a facility coordinator—but, in his native Peru, he practiced as a dentist. In the early years of his career, Christian regularly went on medical mission trips, traveling the globe, from jungles to mountains, to volunteer his time and expertise. In early 2017, a year since his arrival at MDPC and almost four years since his last medical mission trip, he felt his spirit tugged. God was moving in his heart, strongly enough for Christian to plan his first self-guided mission trip...

Christian, who grew up in Lima, Peru, compares the city to Los Angeles. Like LA, it has its “Beverly Hills,” the beautiful coastal city center that all the tourists visited; and it has its barrios and outer wards of poverty. One of the latter, *Villa el*

Salvador, is known for its extreme poverty, street violence, and drug issues. This is the area Christian chose to target.

Through his old friend Willy, Christian was connected to Pastor Elías Hurtado Junco, who leads a *Villa el Salvador* church called Pastor Divino. The church ministers to about 490 children, ages 3 to 17. Three days per week, each of the kids spend the morning or the afternoon at Divino, depending on his or her school schedule. They half of their day being tutored, and are fed lunch.



While helping the children along academically, Pastor Junco and his 22 adult volunteers work hard to also instill strong Christian values. These kids spend every day surrounded by the influence of the street – drugs, gangs, and the promise of



easy money. Pastor Junco has a very specific goal for Divino Church: “To build a new generation of love, obedience, and service.” He recognizes that keeping the next generation safe, strong, and Christ-centered requires today’s adults to commit to shepherding the children, and he works to equip and encourage his congregation in the effort.

Christian arrived in Peru armed with \$1600.00 in donations from MDPC staff, ministries, and members, plus savings out of his own pocket. He and his team of four – two friends from dental school and Mom and Dad Diaz – visited Lima’s downtown market to pick up supplies like toothbrushes and tiny toys (aka, motivation for the kids to sit through a cleaning!).

Once at Divino, the dental mission team set up their week-long operation in the church’s chapel. Each day was much the same: The team would first speak to a group of kids about the importance of dental hygiene, proper brushing, and daily tooth care. Then Christian’s friend Willy would lead a devotional or Bible lesson, and after that the dental visits would begin. The three dentists had to work quickly to see each of the 100 children that lined up each day! Older kids got cleanings, and everyone got a fluoride treatment to prevent future cavities.



After everyone for the day was seen, the kids were given their promised toys. “You can’t give out the prizes before,” noted Christian, “or there’s chaos.” The group would gather to sing hymns and Peruvian songs, and more stories would be shared of Christ’s saving grace. The team, staff, and children had lunch together each day, enjoying *aji de gallina* or other regional specialties. Simple food, but wholesome, filling, and frequently the only meal the kids would eat that day.

Christian returned from the trip satisfied with their work, but eager to do more. His concern for the needs of Pastor Divino is evident in all his stories and in the photos he shared: the roof leaks but corrugated plastic is expensive; books and school supplies are unavailable for local children; part of the church’s third floor is quite simply *gone* - the roof over that portion was destroyed, and the pillars have become rubble. This first trip was just the beginning, and he will visit again, of that Christian is certain. With God’s grace and the generosity of Christian’s friends, each time will touch more lives...and more teeth.

written by Eva Kaminski Shaw, Associate Director Communications

LENTEN & EASTER SCHEDULE

Ash Wednesday Services	February 14	Noon 6:30 PM	Amphitheater Sanctuary
The Spoken Word	March 26-29	Begins at 6:00 AM	Chapel
Maundy Thursday Service	March 29	7:00 PM	Chapel
Good Friday Service	March 30	Noon	Sanctuary
Easter Morning Services	April 1	7:00 AM 8:15, 9:45, & 11:15 AM	Courtyard Sanctuary