

# How Can You Bless an Elderly MDPC Member?

by Jim Newlin, Caring Ministries Volunteer

Almost 10 years ago, I started to visit the elderly homebound members of our church. At first, I thought God was calling me to serve and be a blessing to others in need.

Much to my surprise I discovered it was God's way of blessing and transforming me in ways I could not have anticipated. He touched my heart and opened my eyes concerning how our elderly church members deal with health issues, disabilities, and loneliness. It gives me so much joy to be able to cheer them up and help them avoid feeling lonely and forgotten.

Loneliness is one of the biggest battles our elderly face. Personal visits are

the best remedy for loneliness and depression. Just imagine if your elderly parent, brother, or sister was in a nursing home and someone came routinely to visit and pray with them when you could not be there. You can be that person for a fellow church member who has an elderly loved one living alone. Remember God blesses abundantly those that bless others in His Name.

You may have concerns about visiting the elderly. It may feel awkward at first and a bit uncomfortable. You may wonder, *What do I talk to them about?* Caring Ministries' Visitation Team can coach you, and accompany you on your first visits until you feel

comfortable visiting someone on your own. The more volunteers we have on the Visitation Team, the more visits we can make. Normally we each visit 2-4 people every 3 or 4 weeks. The visits last from 30 minutes to an hour.

After a few visits, they will become like a family member that you stay in touch with routinely. Many of your visits will be so rewarding and enlightening that you will wonder where the time went. You will soon develop a deeper understanding of our Caring Ministries and why God chose you for His ministry.

Please consider serving in this wonderful ministry and be a blessing and be blessed.

# FOCUS



**MDPC**  
Memorial Drive  
Presbyterian Church

WHAT'S HAPPENING NOW & SOON

May, June, July 2019

## THE Anxiety Antidote

PSALM 23

**A New Sermon Series**  
By Pastor Alf Halvorson • Begins Next Sunday

The times in which we live are stress-filled and anxiety-producing. Are you looking for a way to cope with the angst that's been gnawing at your heart? We suggest a deep dive into the 23rd Psalm, an enduring text that has brought salve and inspiration to readers for centuries.

Join us, beginning Sunday, **April 28**, for a five-part sermon series that will help you find rest for your soul. Weekly themes include:

<b>Guided</b> (Psalm 23:1)	<b>Beckoned</b> (Psalm 23:5)
<b>Surrounded</b> (Psalm 23:2-3)	<b>Pursued</b> (Psalm 23:6)
<b>Protected</b> (Psalm 23:4)	

[sermons.mdpc.org](http://sermons.mdpc.org)

## MEN'S LIFE: Man Alive!

MEN'S LIFE MAN ALIVE!

**Discussions that help men understand what makes them fully alive!**

**Tuesday Mornings**  
Sept. 10–Dec. 3  
6:30-7:45 AM  
(Continental breakfast served at 6:00 AM)

**Register: [ml.mdpc.org](http://ml.mdpc.org)**

## Who will you invite?

?

Alpha

Alpha is an 8-week series of interactive sessions that allow people to experience Jesus for themselves and make their own decisions. It is a great place to invite people to explore faith and discuss the big questions in life.

**Tuesdays, April 23-June 11**  
**6:30-8:15 PM**  
Alpha is **FREE** including dinner and childcare.  
Info and registration: [alpha.mdpc.org](http://alpha.mdpc.org)

**Not sure what Alpha is all about? Try Alpha for yourself.**

[alpha.mdpc.org](http://alpha.mdpc.org)

HEROES & VILLAINS

GOD'S POWER TO TRANSFORM

REGISTER NOW!

**MDPC SUMMER CELEBRATION 2019**  
**MONDAY-FRIDAY, JULY 8-12**  
**9:30 AM-12:30 PM**

FOR CHILDREN WHO HAVE COMPLETED KINDERGARTEN THROUGH 5TH GRADE. PRESCHOOL CHILDREN MAY ATTEND IF A PARENT VOLUNTEERS.

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

- VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED TO SERVE IN A VARIETY OF AREAS
- ITEM DONATIONS WILL BE NEEDED THROUGHOUT THE WEEK

LEARN MORE AT [SUMMERCEL.MDPC.ORG](http://SUMMERCEL.MDPC.ORG)

Register at [summercel.mdpc.org](http://summercel.mdpc.org)



MDPC Concert Series 2018-2019

St. Paul Oratorio by Felix Mendelssohn

A Jewish Lutheran, this German Romantic composer was drawn to the conversion story of Saul. Performed by the MDPC Sanctuary Choir and the Archdiocesan Choir of Galveston-Houston. Conducted by Dr. Charles Hausmann.



Sunday, May 5 6:30 PM | Sanctuary Free concert and childcare

concerts.mdpc.org

# REACH Recreation Ministry



Fun Camps All Summer Long!

### Summer Classes

REACH has a variety of classes offered all summer long with 21 different offerings from Coder Campers to Mad Science, to Cooking, Gymnastics, and Basketball. There is something for every child! Which one is perfect for your little tykes? Summer semester dates:

June 17-21, June 24-28, July 15-19, July 22-26, August 5-9, and August 13-15



Register: reach.mdpc.org



## Savvy Caregiver Class

Do you need help managing your loved one's Alzheimer's or dementia?

Are you caring for someone with memory issues? Are you concerned about what lies ahead and how to manage? To learn more about dementia/Alzheimer's and how to have a better quality of life with your loved one, join us for this 6-week course taught by our friends from Amazing Place.

Wednesdays, May 22-June 26 at Noon 9:30-11:30 AM | Summit Room

Register with Sharon Cantrell (of Amazing Place) at 713-440-8177 or scantrell@amazinglacehouston.org.

# 2019

## Global Mission Trips

**Free Wheelchair Mission Vision Trip**  
Peru • Sept. 8-14, 2019 (May sign-up deadline.)  
Cost: Estimated \$2,200 + airfare

Free Wheelchair Mission (FWM) provides wheelchairs to places around the world where the impoverished disabled do not have access to mobility.

**Living Water International Mission Trip**  
Honduras • Dec. 7-14, 2019  
Cost: \$2,200 Total

On a LWI trip, you'll witness the transformational power of water firsthand as you drill a water well, teach sanitation and hygiene lessons, and share God's love with the community. The work you do will impact the community you visit forever!



Kelsi McCormack at kmccormack@mdpc.org

# MDPC HUNGER INITIATIVE



## 1 Summer Food Drive to benefit East Spring Branch Food Pantry

Donations are critical in the summer for Spring Branch students without benefit of school food programs. Please bring **canned soup, fruit, diced tomatoes, chicken, and tuna**. Items may be dropped off at all main entrances on the dates below.

Collection dates: **Sundays, June 2, 9, & 16**

## 2 Fight Hunger through Outreach to:

- Spring Woods Middle School students;
- Houston Community College students;
- Food-insecure families throughout Houston! Volunteer with one of our teams at Houston Food Bank:

Volunteer Dates: **Mondays, May 13, June 10, July 15, August 12** (Register as indicated below.)

Learn more or register: hunger.mdpc.org

## Discover MDPC with Alf

This is a no-pressure opportunity to meet Pastor Alf and learn about MDPC.

June 2 10:45-11:10 AM • The Nook

Drop-ins welcome!

## New Member Classes

The New Member Classes are taught by the Associate Pastors and Elders, and include a Saturday service project at one of the organizations supported by MDPC.

Summer Intensive  
Friday PM & Saturday AM: June 7-8  
In the Parlor

membership.mdpc.org

# FINDING JESUS PRESCHOOLERS!

Bring your parents to Wacky Wednesday Water Day! We'll have lunch, snow cones, and lots of water!

Wednesday, July 31 • 10:00 AM-Noon

Things to bring: towel, sunscreen, and a change of clothes. Lunch will be provided.

Participants must be preschoolers and accompanied by a parent.

Register by July 26: wacky.mdpc.org



## Married Life Prep

Many of us have a picture in our heads of how "happily ever after" in marriage might look. Even though no two people are exactly alike, and may differ in what they believe constitutes a "perfect" marriage, our expectations can be high.

The reality is that no marriage is perfect, but God can do great things through two imperfect people! **A marriage is beautifully designed by God and imbued with the potential to be the most satisfying of human relationships.**

Married Life Prep, a series for newly-weds and newlyweds, gives couples a firm foundation on which to build a healthy, fulfilling marriage. Topics include **communication, conflict, and even sex and affection**. There is no better way to prepare for marriage than by taking MLP. You'll be challenged, entertained, and, best of all, you'll grow closer to your future spouse in the process!

Sundays, July 7-28 • 10:00 AM-12:00 PM

Register: mlp.mdpc.org (free)



# Faith In Practice

Life Changing Medical Mission

25  
YEARS  
BY FAITH

**I**t began right here at Memorial Drive Presbyterian Church. In the pews and from the pulpit each week, it arose out of a nurturing community that witnessed to and always placed service to Jesus first – service to Jesus made manifest by serving His people.

Week after week, MDPC members Joe and Vera Wiatt were surrounded by a community of faith through which God was working to give them the courage to listen to follow His voice. As a result, they stepped out in faith, and on May 23, 1994, Faith In Practice was born. In the early years, MDPC continued to tend this young nonprofit with care, surrounding Joe and Vera with encouragement and love and tireless commitment. Faith In Practice's (FIP) board of directors and its most loyal financial supporters all came from MDPC. As FIP grew and expanded across the United States, MDPC remained faithful, a rock upon which it could rely, because MDPC remained faithful to the One who calls us to serve. To this day, MDPC remains one of FIP's most faithful supporters.

FIP is celebrating 25 years. Twenty-five years of stepping out in faith without knowing what lies ahead. Trusting in the One who celebrated when we succeeded. Who picked us up when we failed. Twenty-five years of trusting in the One who always deepened our faith through the poor of Guatemala, a people whose own faith inspired us. Witnessed to us.

Hundreds of thousands of impoverished Guatemalans receiving healthcare across the years. Thousands of volunteers lending their strength and their weakness to His service in Guatemala. Twenty-five years of knowing

that God was using FIP for a greater purpose. Knowing that God was creating a new community formed by His love every step of the way.

It is not an exaggeration to say that, without MDPC, Faith In Practice would not have been born, or flourished. All because of your willingness to believe in things hoped for, your strong conviction of things not seen.

**Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. –Hebrews 11:1**

It is with deep gratitude to MDPC that Faith In Practice celebrates all that God has done over the past 25 years through the organization and its volunteers, even as it turns toward the future in joyful anticipation of what God has in store.

May we remain faithful in the *next* 25 years as together we listen for God's voice, as we support each other to follow, knowing that we are surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses, encouraging us to run the race laid before us with perseverance, looking to Jesus, the Pioneer and Perfecter of our faith.





This year, 1,500 U.S. and 1,000 Guatemalan volunteers will provide medical care to the poor of Guatemala through integrated healthcare programs. They will serve nearly 30,000. They will be changed as they witness Jesus' presence among them.

For more information and how you might get involved, visit [faithinpractice.org](http://faithinpractice.org).

★★★★★ Charity Navigator

14 Consecutive Years Top 1%