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A PUBLICATION OF MARVIN CHURCH

MarvinLife

November 2023



175 Celebration
page 3



marvin.church

Welcome to Marvin



Robin and
Stuart
Gamble



Sarah and
Ryan Merrell,
Carter and
Charlotte



Greg Gaenzle
(pictured with
fiancée Emily
Brown)



Morgan and
Blake Nelson,
Hayes and
Townes



Maria
Lopez



Emily and John
Barker,
William, Luke
and Elizabeth



Judy and
David
Googins

Blankets and poinsettias for Advent

Honor or remember loved ones by donating poinsettias to decorate the sanctuary and worship center or blankets to help local people in need.

Pick up an order form from the Welcome Center or information desk. Online ordering will be available soon. The deadline to order is Wednesday, Dec. 13.

Cost is \$20 each (add a \$1 processing fee per item for online orders).

Reflections from the lead pastor

I love attending anniversary and birthday celebrations, especially for those who have lots of years to count. If they are milestone years, someone in the family usually takes it upon themselves to gather photographs or keepsakes to commemorate the many years of life and the special memories shared with others.

On Nov. 12, Marvin will celebrate 175 years of ministry to Smith County and our community with special worship services, tours of the archives of the church, and a special all-church luncheon celebration and program. We will also have free horse and carriage rides around the church campus. Global Methodist Church Bishop Scott Jones will preach in sanctuary services while Rev. Jeff Olive, one of the first preachers in the now Core service, will preach in the Herd Worship Center. Former pastors will send greetings while others will return in person for the celebration.

Why celebrate?

Monumental celebrations like this are important to commemorate because forgetfulness is a spiritual pandemic ravaging humanity. Others may call it "spiritual myopia" or spiritual nearsightedness, but the danger is just the same. We get so preoccupied with the challenges of our current lives that we forget the long faithfulness of the God who inspires us.

God calls His people to "remember" many times throughout the Bible. As God's people commemorate the exodus from Egypt and the receiving of the Law from God, they are reminded in Deuteronomy 4:9, "Be careful and watch yourselves closely so that you do not forget the things your eyes have seen or let them fade from your heart as long as you live." The prophet Isaiah admonishes God's people in Isaiah 17:10, "You have forgotten God your savior; you have not remembered the Rock, your fortress." The Apostle John is strongly encouraged in the Book of Revelation (3:3) to "Remember, therefore, what you have received and heard; hold it fast."

What's an Ebenezer?

Not only were God's people asked to remember, but they were also given instructions about how to set up memorial markers so the stories of God's faithfulness could be retold with visual promptings. In Joshua 4, God instructs Joshua to gather stones from the Jordan river crossing and create a memorial so that people would be prompted to retell the story. Similarly, in the book of 1 Samuel, the prophet was asked to pick up a stone and set it up so that people, when seeing the stone, would remember that God delivered them from their enemies. The stone was called "Ebenezer," the meaning being "Thus far the Lord has helped us" (1

Samuel 7:12).

If you have ever sung the old hymn *Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing*, you have sung the words, "Here I raise my Ebenezer; hither by thy help I've come." If you have ever found yourself asking, "What's an Ebenezer?" and "Why am I raising one?" well, now you know. The Israelites were asked to remember the faithfulness of God by looking back at a rock that had a story to tell.

Our story

Marvin Church has a great story to tell. With the help of Marilyn Hardy, you have been reading some wonderful stories about Marvin's history (its missions program, Sunday School classes and music programs) in our *MarvinLife* newsletters. The archives display on the second-floor breezeway has also been offering pictures and other historical artifacts throughout this year.

Did you know?

Did you know the Methodists were the first church to withdraw from the Union Church of Protestants to form their own congregation? Did you know that in 1886, the church board resolved to build our current sanctuary, and when it was completed in 1891 it was known as "the Cathedral of the South" and "the finest Methodist sanctuary in Texas?" Did you know that during an economic downturn, the church was sold to the highest bidder on the courthouse steps in 1897? Did you know that Mrs. M.B. Adams called the church to fast and pray to save the church?

Here are some other interesting facts to reflect upon: As early as 1906, church orchestras were helping to lead worship, and in 1910, Marvin had the largest Sunday School program in the church's conference. In 1941, Marvin went through a major sanctuary renovation, redesigning the chancel area and balconies and creating a center aisle with straightened pews. In 1984, the church campus doubled in size as Pirtle Hall, Herd Worship Center and Fair Gymnasium were built.

(Celebration continued on page 3)



DR. DOUG BAKER



Bearing fruit

Fall is here and we are loving this season with our Marvin Kids and families! This semester, we have had a great time as parents of littles gathered in their



children's classrooms to fellowship, connect and learn with Littles, Lessons, & Lattes. The Marvin Kids pop-up at Andy's was a refreshing success with lots of families connecting and delicious Andy's! Our Fall Family Fun Night is an exciting time of Marvin Church coming together to throw a great party! Thank you to all who made this event possible! As we look to December, we welcome the Advent season! We hope you'll plan to attend our Night at the Nativity Dec.

10! Our families will gather and celebrate the birth of Jesus with cookies, cocoa and laughter!

The Marvin Kids Ministry continues to see God move in the lives of our children. We celebrate the ways God is moving in their lives ... come Holy Spirit! Parents are sharing how their children pray for them and for their siblings with no prompting or request. Children laying their hands on another child in a spirit of prayer or inviting neighborhood families to the Fall Family Fun Night and praying for others while standing on doorsteps of our neighbors are blessings we are seeing. Many baptisms are being celebrated as our families and church commit to guide their children in the light of Jesus. Children kneeling at the altar during worship to lift others up to the Lord are the fruits of our ministry. All of these blessings can only be directed back to one—our faithful God! We are excited to see what else God has for our children, for their families and for our church!





Growing together in Christ

What a fantastic fall we've had so far, and with the cooler weather coming in, we're excited about continuing to spend time together enjoying community!

The Marvin Student Ministry has had an incredible few weeks kicking off all of our fall programs! We reverted to spending every Sunday evening with our students from 6 to 8 p.m. but we continued with the name *Unite* because we love uniting our students together in fellowship as we grow together and with Christ. We kicked off our new confirmation program and have 16 students registered for that! They received brand new Bibles upon starting the program and will use them throughout their confirmation journey. We also have seen several students regularly attend Sunday School and our Midweek Bible study and it has been a blast!

We had a fantastic opportunity to take a group of students to Green Acres Baptist Church to see TobyMac live in concert! We took 17 students and watched as Toby put on an amazing show.

We are already looking way ahead to the spring and summer, so be on the lookout for calendars, announcements and so much more! Continue to pray for our students and leaders as they continue to walk and grow together in Christ.



You're invited!

Celebrate 175 years of Marvin Church

Luncheon and program follow 11 o'clock services
Sunday, Nov. 12, in Fair Gymnasium
 Make lunch reservations on the website or in the Welcome Center

Special worship services • Bishop Scott Jones in the sanctuary
Rev. Jeff Olive in Core • Tour the church archives •
Horse and carriage rides • Special historic displays

Celebrate yesterday • Envision tomorrow
Founded in love, growing in Christ, moving forward in faith.

Celebration

(Continued from page 2)

Looking forward

There have been other additions through the years along with important infrastructure work to keep up the campus, including refinishing the stained-glass windows and recently hiring Letourneau organ company to build a new sanctuary organ coming in 2025.

We have grown our missional impact through strategic hires in missions, and our missional outreach stretches across the world.

Marvin has started new Methodist Churches in our

community and in Africa. Faith journeys have begun with baptisms and confirmations, and we have sent many ahead to heaven through our memorial celebrations.

Celebrate!

We have much history to celebrate and a great future to envision. I hope you will make the commitment to celebrate all that God has done with the people of Marvin Church by coming to our celebration Nov. 12. I look forward to seeing you there.

Sharing the adventure,

Doug

Memorials and gifts as of Oct. 12

ETERNAL FLAME FUND

In honor of **Laura & Lin Barker**
Genelle Gann
In honor of **Steve Strain & family, John Thach & family and David Twiss & family**
Janet Rippey
In honor of **Traci & Kevin Meyer and in memory of Nicki Armstrong**
Susan & Michael Meyer
In memory of **Carolyn & Bill Ross**
Joyce & Mike Milburn
Janet Rippey
FOUNDATION
In memory of **Marilyn Budde, Larry Childress, Carolyn & Bill Ross and Cory Stephens**
Mary Ann & Ray Cozby
MUSIC
In honor of **Kenneth Horne**
Nancy Crim
In memory of **Judy Calbert**
Bob Calbert
In memory of **Marilee Chapman**
Dean Chapman
In memory of **Joan Muller**
John Muller
TV MINISTRY
In memory of **Larry Childress**
Sally & Floyd Betts
Mary & Milford Davis
Tom Gregory
Beth & Andy Guinn



What is Stephen Ministry?

Stephen Ministry is a one-to-one caring ministry that provides confidential Christ-centered care to people experiencing a difficult time in life.

"Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up" (Ephesians 4:11-12).

Stephen Ministers are lay Christians selected, trained and supervised to provide effective Christian care. After 50 very comprehensive hours of training, Stephen Ministers are assigned a care receiver with whom they meet once a week for about an hour. Stephen Ministers also meet regularly for supervision, support and continuing education.

Throughout congregations and communities there are many struggles that are experienced day in and day out. Potential care receivers are:

- Lonely.
- Grieving the loss of a loved one.
- Separated or in the process of a divorce.
- Terminally ill and their families.
- Experiencing loss of job or financial setbacks.



- Experiencing crisis situations.
- Experiencing hurt from abuse.
- Adjusting to life-changing situations: stay-at-home parent, retirement, promotion, new parent, empty nester, graduating from college, etc.
- Need someone to come alongside of them during an especially difficult time, a caring soul who can help them process their feelings, their fears, their anger, their lack of faith and yet provide hope.

Stephen Ministers are not professional counselors, clinical therapists, experts in law, finance, or church doctrine. Stephen Ministers pray, listen, explore feelings, share Christ's love, maintain confidentiality, attend to the care-giving process and leave the results to God. Stephen Ministers are the care givers and God is the cure giver.

Potential care receivers first meet with a pastor or Stephen leader, who assesses their need for care and matches them with a Stephen Minister. If you or someone you care about is interested, please contact Rev. Brandy Stevens (bstevens@marvin.church).



Anthem commissioned for 175 celebration

Marvin music commissioned Joseph Martin to write an anthem in honor of the church's 175th anniversary. Upon completion of the new anthem, he sent the following message:

"Here is *Call to Commitment*. I am so very, very happy with how it turned out. It is epic! My prayer is that the anthem will display both ministry and artistry for you and your church as you commemorate this special moment.

"The piece is in three sections that progressively take us on a journey of faith: past, present and future.

"The first section represents the legacy of our faith! God has been with us from the beginning!

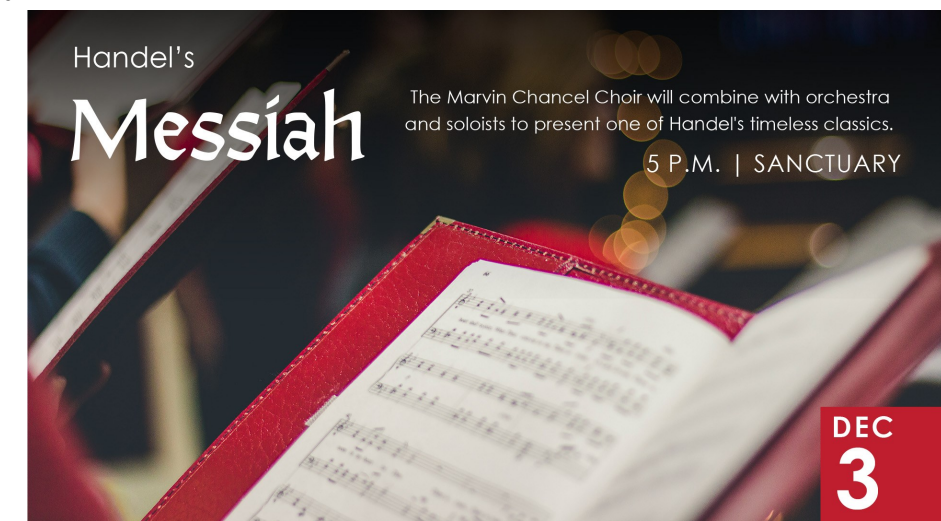
"The second section incorporates *O God Our Help in Ages Past* and represents the fidelity of our faith. This treasured hymn offers a song of thanks for God's faithfulness and provision. It also creates a transition to the final section. It moves us from God was with us to God is with us!

"The third section is our destiny of faith. It presents a challenge for the future, and with a strong crescendo of purpose calls the church to arise and embrace a new day of worship and service!

"I truly hope you are blessed by these efforts. I am very excited to present it to you."

Hymn Festival commemorates anniversary
Commemorate Marvin's 175th anniversary with inspiring music at 5 p.m. Sunday, Oct.

29, in the sanctuary. The Chancel Choir will join forces with vocalists from the Tyler Civic Chorale and other congregations as the 100-voice mass choir leads the congregation in an evening of praise and celebration!



Your personal gift

Margin
Creating Space to Breathe, Relate & Give

- Pray
- Thank God for His generosity.
- Give

Please turn in your 2024 estimate of giving card. If you've already submitted your estimate of giving card, thank you!

Words of thanksgiving from John Wesley, the founder of Methodism:

"Thanksgiving is inseparable from true prayer; it is almost essentially connected with it. One who always prays is ever giving praise, whether in ease or pain, both for prosperity and for the greatest adversity. He blesses God for all things, looks on them as coming from him, and receives them for his sake—not choosing nor refusing, liking or disliking, anything, but only as it is agreeable or disagreeable to His perfect will."

Praying for God's perfect will as we give thanks to God and celebrate with family and friends. Happy Thanksgiving!

Financial update through September

	Sept. budget	Sept. actual	YTD budget	YTD actual
Gifts received/other income	\$ 313,283	\$ 247,592	\$ 2,788,350	\$ 2,857,291
Expenditures	\$ 341,820	\$ 342,166	\$ 3,301,668	\$ 3,086,726
Excess/(shortage)	\$ (28,537)	\$ (94,574)	\$ (513,318)	\$ (229,435)

Attendance

Sept. 17.....	829
Sept. 24.....	889
Oct. 1.....	781
Oct. 8.....	712

Contact the church

Marvin Church
300 W. Erwin Street
Tyler, TX 75702

903.592.7396

Facebook.com/Marvin.Methodist

info@marvin.church

Marvin.church

Missions Fair—where everyone can find a place to serve



37 partner agencies present • Lots of people learned about our missions partners • Contact Shannon or Adam for info about how to serve (spogue@marvin.church; akovach@marvin.church)

SUPPORT ISRAEL

Please scan the code to donate to **One for Israel** to support the crisis happening now in Israel. If you prefer, you may make a donation to Marvin and note "Israel" in the memo section of your check.



Breathe

WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

One of the greatest challenges among women in our culture is taking time to pause, to stop all the activities and just breathe. We relentlessly strive to complete the limitless to-do lists that hinder us from experiencing all that our Heavenly Father has for us.

Marvin Women's Ministry 2024 Breathe Conference is intentionally designed to allow you space to breathe in your Heavenly Father's love. You will be led in worship and encouraged through teaching by Shannon Perry and diving into God's Word.

Be sure to mark Feb. 9 and 10 on your calendar for this amazing Breathe Conference right here on Marvin's beautiful campus. Register with a group of friends or come to meet like-minded women who are thirsting for a weekend of rest in the Father.

Tickets are \$40 each and are on sale now! Purchase your tickets now while they are available! Seating is limited. Contact Brandy Stevens (bstevens@marvin.church) for additional information.

Ventures to visit Festival of Lights

Join the Ventures for a delightful two-day journey to Natchitoches, Louisiana's oldest town, established in 1714, Nov. 29 and 30.

Our journey will begin with lunch followed by a tour of the Melrose Plantation, a national historic landmark established c. 1796. Following our plantation tour, we will travel north along the Cane River to Natchitoches where we will check into the Church Street Inn in the heart of the downtown area just off the Cane River.

Wednesday evening we will enjoy dining at one of Natchitoches' fine restaurants before taking in the sights of the Christmas Festival of Lights on the riverfront. The movie *Steel Magnolias* was filmed in Natchitoches.

Breakfast is provided in the hotel Thursday morning. Following breakfast, participants are free to visit the many quaint shops nearby, tour Fort St. Jean



Baptiste, a full-size replica of an 18th century French fort, take a carriage ride through the historic district or stroll along the riverfront. Following lunch on your own, we will head back home in the early afternoon.

Cost is \$200 per person, including hotel, transportation on the church's people mover and most meals. Pick up a brochure from the Welcome Center and sign up with a \$100 deposit. The deadline to register is Nov. 13.

This will be a delightful escape to a quaint old Southern village packed with things to see and do.

Women's circles

Susanna Wesley Circle

Susanna Wesley will meet at 10 a.m. Monday, Nov. 13. This month will feature Terry Smith, chief executive officer of the Children's Advocacy Center of Smith County.



Amazing Grace Night Circle



We have another awesome volunteer opportunity for you! Come join the Amazing Grace Night Circle at the East Texas Food Bank (3201 Robertson Rd. in Tyler). Everyone can participate! We will work from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 21. Please contact Ann Head for more information (903.279.9979).

Serve this Christmas

METHODIST CHILDREN'S HOME FOSTER CHILDREN'S PARTY | Our annual party will be at 10 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 9, in Pirtle Hall. If you would like to sign up to help with the party, or adopt a child, contact April in the Missions office (alopez@marvin.church).

CHRISTMAS JOY | Come and join us Dec. 13 to 15 as we invite parents to pick out a new gift and stockings for their children. We will need lots and lots of new unwrapped toys and gifts (valued between \$10-\$20) and many helpers to spread Christmas joy!. Two-hour volunteer shifts include being a general helper, shopper, stocker, greeter or gift wrapper. We will also have needs for set up and take down. Look for sign-ups later this month.

HIWAY 80 CHRISTMAS CARD PARTIES | Marvin will sponsor Christmas card parties for Gateway to Hope (10-11:30 a.m.) and Triumph Village (3-4:30 p.m.) on Thursday Dec. 6. Each party will feature food, music, a devotional, games, a visit from Santa and an opportunity for attendees to send Christmas cards to family and loved ones. If you would like to help with either event, contact April in the Missions office (alopez@marvin.church).

HIWAY 80 CHRISTMAS EVENT IN LONGVIEW | Marvin Church will have a "ready to man" booth at the Hiway 80 Family Christmas Event on Saturday, Dec. 16, at the Maude Cobb Event Center in Longview. This is a joint event for the Longview and Tyler outreach programs. Details coming soon on how you can help.

CHRISTMAS BLANKETS FOR THOSE IN NEED | In December you can drop off a new blanket to one of the blanket trees around the church or give \$20 for a blanket or poinsettia in memory or in honor of a loved one. Mark blanket in your check's memo section.

HOLIDAY SERVE NIGHTS | Fill handmade Christmas stockings for Christmas Joy at 6 p.m. Nov. 20 in Pirtle Hall.

Assemble gifts of love for people spending Christmas Day at the Salvation Army. Serve night is at 6 p.m. Dec. 18 in Pirtle Hall.

MILITARY CARE HOLIDAY MAILING | During the first three weeks of November, we will collect Christmas cards and letters for people actively serving. Drop them off in the Welcome Center. Help pack care packages at the holiday packing party at 2 p.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 28, in Pirtle Hall.

SANTA FOR MISSIONS | Santa can visit your family, business or group! Proceeds benefit the Bethesda Pediatric Clinics. Contact Mary Gammell (903.561.7119) to schedule your visit.

New St. Paul and Bethesda partnership

Marvin has partnered with St. Paul Children's Services and Bethesda Medical Clinics for many years. Recently the two merged medical and dental clinics to become Bethesda Pediatrics. We are thrilled to continue our partnerships through this merger which will streamline medical care for our community. They are still working on details but the clinics will remain in their present locations and the services provided through SPCF will remain, including the food pantry! See the article below from their website: "Bethesda Pediatrics was born in 2023

after coming together with St. Paul Children's Medical and Dental Services. Bethesda Pediatrics is a program of Bethesda Health Clinic, which was founded in 2003 to provide care for working, uninsured adults. We are excited to provide great care for your children! "We provide health and nutrition education, immunizations, minor acute care, prescription assistance, preventive checkups, referrals to specialists, sick visits and a home for special needs children."



Menders need your help

Got skills? Interested in serving as a Marvin Mender? The Menders are now hiring!

The motto for Marvin Menders is *For Him we build*. Currently Menders are tearing down an add-on room and rebuilding it to provide a safe room for family members who come to help the homeowner, a woman with significant health issues.

Contact Shannon (spogue@marvin.church) or Adam (akovach@marvin.church) for more information about how serve.

Missions updates

Continued blessings for Tanzania

Shout out to our Marvin adult Sunday School classes who have been busy raising funds to support a water well at Amazing Grace Methodist Church in Tanzania! Can you imagine the impact fresh water will make in the lives of these people!?! An amazing gift!

We have also partnered with First Methodist Waco to provide more Swahili Bibles for the congregation at Amazing Grace Church.

A special thank you to a Marvin family for a very generous donation to fund the building of a parsonage for the pastor of the church for the Dhaiso people of Tanzania.

A note to the Pairs and Parents Class

From Shannon and Adam to members of the Pairs and Parents Class:

Thank you for your many years of faithful service and support to the missions department of Marvin Methodist Church. Through your countless acts of labor, love and generosity you have provided many, many, many blessings to our community—not only here in Tyler, but also statewide and globally as well.

And we want to extend a very special thank you for your final donation of the balance of your class funds. Please know we will honor your request to use these



funds for continued services through Methodist Mission Weeks and Great Days of Service to come.

Congratulations

Congratulations to our very own poet, Dona Cassel, for a book of military poems she has written throughout the years. Marvin Military Care Ministry sponsored the printing of the books which will be distributed to veteran's groups in the area as well as to the recipients of the holiday care packages we will send in November to troops in active service.



Habits of the Heart

During the month of November, we are collecting items for Christmas Joy. We need lots and lots of toys! Please bring new toys for children ages newborn to 17 valued at \$15. Bring your donations to the collection shelf outside the Welcome Center.

Serve Night

Stuff stockings for use in our Christmas Joy ministry during the next Missions Serve Night at 6 p.m. Monday, Nov. 20, in Pirtle Hall. Bring your family, bring your friends and spend a couple of hours working on a project that will make a big difference in the lives of others.

Serve Night is on the third Monday of each month (except for the summer months). There's no need to sign up, just show up!

Sweets for the Soul

Sweets for the Soul delivers a little cheer to families of

people under hospice care. We deliver homemade desserts and cards on the second Monday of each month to Hospice of East Texas. If you would like to be a part of our fabulous baking crew or want more information, contact April Lopez (alopez@marvin.church or 903.592.7396 X121). Our next delivery date is Monday, Nov. 13.

Share your thoughts about missions

Scan the QR code to complete a survey about Marvin missions.

We want your input about how we can better reach our community and world, and what your thoughts are about potential and upcoming mission trips. Thanks, mission hearts!

Veterans luncheon

Calling all veterans! You are invited to a special Marvin Veterans Luncheon. Mark your calendars for 11:30 a.m. Thursday, Nov. 9, in Pirtle Hall. RSVP to April Lopez by Nov. 5 (alopez@marvin.church).

