

A PUBLICATION OF MARVIN CHURCH

MarvinLife

December 2023



175 Years

Anniversary celebration
pages 8 and 9



marvin.church

Reflections from the lead pastor

Do you ever find yourself wanting to say to retailers "Just wait on pushing Christmas on us!" I have heard most of the economic reasons for wanting to get a jump start on finishing out the last quarter to get the stores in the black, but really, even before the end of October, we are walking through Christmas trees in department stores and hearing of black-Friday sales. I've been reading a lot lately about being fully present in the moment and not hurrying through life, but our culture wants us to hurry up and get in the Christmas shopping mode. It is no wonder that at times we feel out of step with the world around us. My soul seems to be crying out, "I'm not ready for this season that you are promoting."

Like the seasons of nature, where God has ordained a rhythm to creation, so are seasons of the Christian calendar. As fall brings the change of color in the trees before the trees go barren for the winter, so I want to celebrate Thanksgiving Sunday and Christ the King Sunday before moving into the preparations for the celebration of Christ's birth. With the way the days of the calendar fall this year, we have a Sunday between Thanksgiving celebrations with our families and the beginning of the Advent journey. More than just a transitional Sunday, this is a Sunday to reflect on Jesus being the most important person in our lives. He truly is our King.

Thanks for your patience with my little rant. By the time this newsletter gets to your homes, it just might be December. Christmas sales circulars have a way of congesting the mail system. Welcome to December and the beginning of the Advent season.

Advent means "arrival" or "coming." It is a time of preparation during the four weeks leading up to Christmas, when we not only prepare our hearts for the annual celebration of Christ's coming to earth, but also look towards the future of Christ coming in glory, being enthroned in his rightful place at the center of all creation. This is the culmination of the spiritual life with God, it is the longing of our hearts—the day when there is no more death, mourning, or crying, or pain. The old order of things passes away and the new comes. God's dwelling place will ultimately be with us. Now we wait with the Holy Spirit's assurance of things to come.

So as we wait, let's commit to live each day for God, enjoying living fully in the moment, loving the person in front of us and being mindful that our actions are either bringing Christ into the present reality or making it harder for others to see our Christian witness. We are either painting a picture for others of a new order or we are contributing to the darkness around us. When

we live for Christ and strive to bring him fully into each present moment, we celebrate the spirit of Advent—the coming of Christ.

C.S. Lewis, in his classic work *The Screwtape Letters*, portrays Screwtape, the high-ranking demon instructing his apprentice nephew Wormwood on how to disrupt a Christian's spiritual growth. The goal is to get the person either stuck in the past with former hurts or disappointments or get them so fixated on the future that they are worried and unable to enjoy the present moment. Why? Because the present is the moment in which time touches eternity.

Missionary Frank Laubach once stated that "Every now is an eternity if it is full of God." Christian philosopher, theologian and author Dallas Willard stated that "Eternity is now in session." Jesus prayed in John 17:3, "Now this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent." Eternity is here for the person who has spiritual eyes to see.

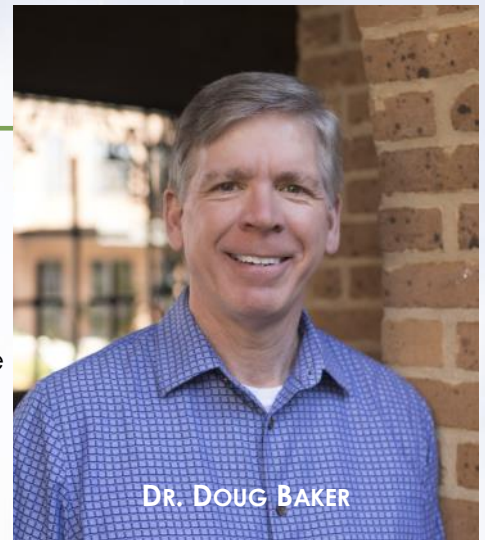
Friends, it is my prayer for you that every day during this Advent season you will be filled with the closeness of Christ. Author and counselor John Eldredge states that "the goal of human existence is union with God." My prayer for you is that you will ask these questions of yourself: "What does it look like for me to be united with God in this current circumstance?" "What events will I attend during this Advent season that will bring me closer to Christ?" "Are there certain things that I should say no to this year so I can minimize my anxiety around my calendar?" "What is one special thing that I can do for another person that will help them to experience Christ or think favorably of Jesus?"

I hope to see you in worship and especially for our Lessons and Carols service with traditional Advent Scripture readings and hymn singing with accompanying orchestra on Dec. 17. I hope you will also be in church for our beautiful candlelight Christmas Eve services and our New Year's Eve Day Covenant Renewal Services.

During this season of anticipation, may we join the early church in its prayer, "Come, Lord Jesus."

In Christ,

Doug



DR. DOUG BAKER

Christmas at Marvin

Christmas Downtown concerts

Free lunchtime concerts start at 12:05 p.m. each Wednesday in the sanctuary. Lunch is available (\$5) in Pirtle Hall following each concert.

- **Nov. 29** | UT Tyler Patriot Singers
- **Dec. 6** | Tyler Junior College choirs
- **Dec. 13** | Robinson Handbells
- **Dec. 20** | A Christmas Story with Kara and Jonathan Story

First Sunday of Advent

Dec. 3 | Our message series The Protagonist begins.

Baby's First Christmas

9-10:30 a.m. Sunday, Dec. 3, in the Garden Room | All babies celebrating their first Christmas and their families are invited for a reception and family photo. Each baby will receive a Christmas keepsake book.

Handel's Messiah

5 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 3, in the sanctuary | Join us for the wonderful Christmas tradition and timeless classic, Messiah by George Friderick Handel, featuring outstanding soloists and orchestra.

Hiway 80 Christmas card parties

Wednesday, Dec. 6 | Marvin will sponsor Christmas card parties for Gateway to Hope (10-11:30 a.m.) and Triumph Village (3-4:30 p.m.) offering attendees the chance to send Christmas cards to family and loved ones. If you would like to help, contact April in the Missions office (alopez@marvin.church).

Methodist Children's Home party

10 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 9, in Pirtle Hall | If you would like to sign up to help with the party or provide gifts for a child, contact April in the Missions office (alopez@marvin.church).

Robinson Handbells

5 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 10, in the sanctuary | Get into the holiday mood at this evening of song from Marvin's handbell choir.

Night at the Nativity

5 p.m. Dec. 10 | This year we welcome residents of Breckenridge Village for an evening of carols, crafts, dinner and the story of Jesus' birth with our Marvin Kids and families. See page 15 for information.

Christmas Joy

Dec. 13 to 15, Marvin's Fair Gymnasium | This event



provides gifts to select families in need. Sign up to work a two-hour shift. Get more information on page 11.

Hiway 80 Christmas in Longview

Saturday, Dec. 16, at Maude Cobb | Marvin will have a "ready to man" booth at the Hiway 80 Family Christmas Event. This is a joint event for the Longview and Tyler outreach programs.

A Service of Nine Lessons and Carols

8:30 and 11 a.m. Traditional Worship services | The story of the fall of humanity, the promise of the Messiah and Jesus' birth are told in nine short Bible readings interspersed with carols, hymns and music.

Missions Serve Night

6 p.m. Dec. 18, Pirtle Hall | Assemble gifts of love for people spending Christmas at Salvation Army.

Healing service

6 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 21, in the chapel | Experience God's gift of healing and peace. See page 6 for more information.

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.

Christmas Offering for Missions

This year's offering benefits four great organizations: Methodist Children's Home, Rahab's Retreat, Hiway 80 Rescue Mission and Support for Israel. Please make checks payable to Marvin Church and note *Christmas Offering for Missions* on the memo line.

Midweek classes begin Jan. 10

Marvin Church, one part of our discipleship pathway includes our Midweek classes. Midweek occurs on Wednesday nights from January to April. Each week dinner is served at 5 p.m. in Pirtle Hall (\$5) and classes are from 6 to 7 p.m. A few of our spring offerings are below, with more to come. Registration opens in January and classes begin Jan. 10. Chicken burrito bowls will be the first meal!

Contact Marc Donaldson with any questions (mdonaldson@marvin.church).

HOW WE GOT THE BIBLE

A central belief of Christians across time and place is that the Bible is the authoritative Word of God for us. At the same time, it is also a collection of human writings that was compiled by humans under the guidance of the Spirit over the course of many centuries. Questions abound about this process: Who decided what books were included and excluded? What criteria were used? When exactly did all this take place? Join us in this class as we explore and clarify this often-misunderstood history and also establish further reason to trust in the authenticity of the Old and New Testaments as the Word of God for the people of God. Taught by Robert Hand

CATECHISM OF THE GLOBAL METHODIST CHURCH—PART 1

The goal of catechesis is to understand, recall, profess and enjoy the church's essential teachings, which includes the essence of the central theological confessions of the church and the essential doctrinal commitments of the GMC denomination. Part 2



focuses on our distinctives as Wesleyan Methodists. Facilitated by Gerry Giles.



WOMEN'S STUDY | HE'S WHERE THE JOY IS—GETTING TO KNOW THE CAPTIVATING GOD OF THE TRINITY

In this class we'll look at the Trinity as a whole and examine each of the persons of God individually—Father, Son and Spirit. A richer understanding of God in His three-in-oneness will begin to inform everything about the way you make peace with your past, live in the present, look to the future and interact with others. He's waiting to delight you with who He is! Facilitated by Brandy Stevens

GRIEFSHARE

GriefShare is a 13-week Christ-centered grief support group that will help you recover from the deep hurt following the loss of a loved one. Materials are provided at no cost.

Archives dedicated in memory of faithful servants

In advance of Marvin Church's 175th anniversary, the Marvin Trustees unanimously approved the dedication of the church's archives in memory of Marvin members Alex Beall and Mary Hammond. In recognition of these two members' commitments to maintaining the history and preservation of church documents and memorabilia, a bronze plaque has been placed near the door of the Archives Room on the lower level of the sanctuary.



The story of the steeple



On April 12, 2020, a hail storm damaged shingles on the steeple, causing the shingles to begin falling off. The steeple exterior was decaying, and the cupola exterior was also decaying.

Inside the steeple, multiple full cut oak and pine boards were bolted together to make extremely strong columns for the steeple frame during original construction.

The picture at left was taken inside the steeple looking up toward the weather vane.

The main columns extend approximately 100 feet up into the internal area of the weather vane.

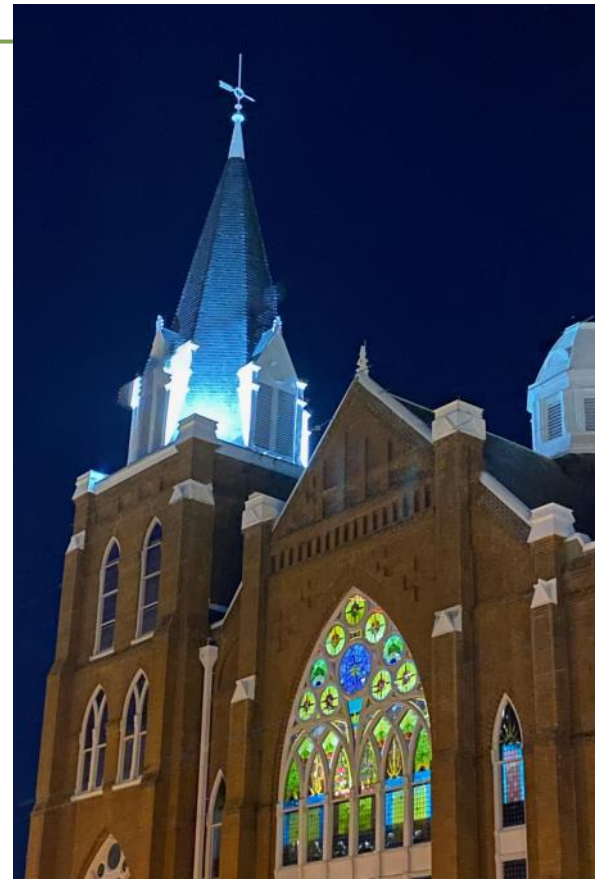
Through the years, construction workers left their names and dates of when they worked on this interior steeple frame. Our

2023 workers also left their names and dates on the steeple walls.

Work accomplished:

- OSHA protocol requirements determined and met.
- Installation of anchors: Before work could begin, a worker had to crawl to the top interior section of the steeple to attach multiple anchors to the top of each column (the single crewman who climbed to the interior top of the steeple ascended into darkness at the top).
- Anchors were needed to attach safety lines to allow the crew members to travel up, down and around the steeple's exterior working surface.
- The old exterior steeple underlayment was replaced with three sealing layers.
- All existing shingles were replaced.
- The wood on the steeple dormers was replaced.
- The dormer venting louvers were replaced with metal instead of the original wood material.
- The cupola was cleaned and repainted

Thanks to everyone who worked on this project: Eternal Flame benefactors (funding was provided by the Eternal Flame Fund); Steeple Committee members; Marvin Trustees; Boyd's of Texas Roofing (John Boyd and his business partner/wife, Summer, for keeping the project advancing and providing a safe working environment); Bobby Herrington's exceptional work keeping the final goal in mind; Threlkeld Insurance Company; and Marvin's exceptional church staff.



Breathe Women's Conference



Take time to breathe. Join us at this special conference featuring Shannon Perry, a national recording artist, author, speaker, and TV host. The conference is set for 7 to 9 p.m. Friday, Feb. 9, and 9 a.m. to noon Saturday, Feb. 10, at Marvin.

Childcare is provided with reservation.

Purchase tickets (\$40) by calling the church, visiting the Welcome Center or at the Breathe table on Dec. 3 and 10. Prewrapped tickets will be available for gift-giving. Public sales begin Dec. 4.

For more information email BreatheWomensConference@gmail.com.



SHANNON PERRY

Women's circles

Susanna Wesley Circle | This circle will meet at 10 a.m. on Monday, Dec. 11, for a Christmas program. This month will feature beautiful Christmas music with Jonathan and Kara Story. All women are invited.



Amazing Grace Night Circle | A caroling we will go! Join us at 5:30 p.m. Dec. 5 at Atria Copeland Retirement Home, 5317 New Copeland Road. We will carol and spread cheer to residents. Afterward we'll have a cookie exchange in the home of Ann Head, 1857 Stonecrest Blvd., Unit 1404.



Stephen Ministry: Keeping hope alive

What benefits can the care-receiver expect to receive from the Stephen Ministry program?



The biggest benefit that a care-receiver can expect is knowing that someone really cares about them.

Loneliness is a predominant experience for many care-receivers, and what they really want most is for people to give them their time. They typically look forward to weekly visits from their caregiver and they appreciate that they don't have to feel rushed into the process of getting their problems solved, until they are

Christmas is healing

You're invited to celebrate Christmas with us this year! Christmas is supposed to be special and something we all look forward to, but it can be a difficult time of year for many. God has given us Christmas as a time for healing and peace. Join us at 6 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 21, in the chapel for a service of wholeness and healing. This year could be the year that you look forward to a time of peace once again.

totally ready. They will be happy to find that their Stephen Minister will be very patient with them and with the pace of the process. This helps them to relax and develop that critical trust in their Stephen Minister, which is so necessary in achieving eventual success.

Regardless of how long the process may take, the care-receiver will always receive encouragement from the Stephen Minister that they are making progress and that they will reach a successful resolution of their situation. Keeping hope alive

is a key ingredient towards achieving success.

When the care-receiver reaches the point where they no longer need the services of a Stephen Minister, they have typically become a new and hopefully stronger person than they were when they began the process. They now look at life differently, no longer afraid to be all that they can be. So in that sense they now have a better life and a better outlook on their future.

Music at Marvin

This is the final article in the historical series commemorating our 175th anniversary.

Sing the glory of His name; Make His praise glorious! (Psalm 66:2).

For 175 years Marvin Church has been singing the glory of our Lord and making that music glorious. The first historical evidence of a Marvin choir is in 1872 when choir members met at 3 o'clock on Sunday afternoons for rehearsal. There was also a Sunday School Chorus, so music was being offered not just in worship but also in the Sunday School hour.

The importance of music to the congregation is apparent in the early photographs of the new (our current) sanctuary. Pipes of the Lancashire-Marshall organ were arrayed on the west wall and an ample choir loft was provided. In 1905 the Marvin Sunday School purchased a piano to be used with the organ. In 1906 there was a small church orchestra that occasionally performed and soon after a small children's orchestra was established.

When the sanctuary was being remodeled in 1941, Mr. R. W. Fair made a gift of a new three-manual pipe organ with chimes. The pipes were put behind grillwork during that remodeling. By 2025 the installation of Marvin's new Letourneau organ should be complete, continuing Marvin's tradition of excellence in musical offerings. The new organ will preserve one-third of the unique pipes from the 1941 organ.

Through the early twentieth century, the Marvin choir continued to grow and be defined not only by the music sung in worship but also music sung on concert occasions. The choir performed Haydn's *Creation*, Mendelssohn's *Elijah* and Handel's *Messiah*. Clyde Wolford, who served as Marvin's music director for 30 years, began an annual tradition of a community-wide performance of *The Messiah*. This musical outreach into the community was strengthened by the establishment of the Marvin Concert Series in 1988. This concert series continues to the present, bringing special music and renowned performers to Marvin to enrich our members' musical experiences and to be an outreach to bring the community to Marvin.

The 2023-2024 Concert Series features a busy schedule which began with a Hymn Festival on Oct. 29 to celebrate Marvin's 175-year history. With Advent there will be a presentation of Handel's *Messiah*, the Service of Nine Lessons and Carols, the Robinson Handbell Concert and the annual Christmas Downtown



Concerts at noon on Wednesdays. There are further Concert Series offerings in the new year.

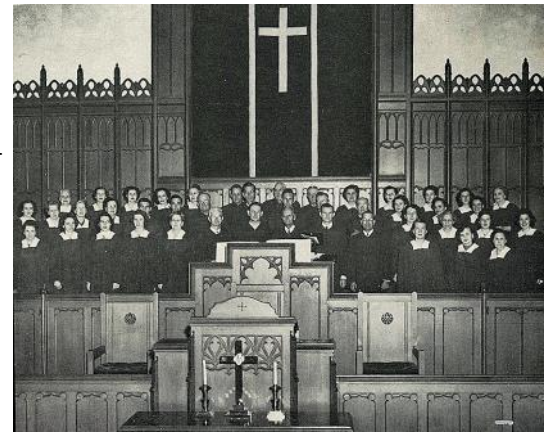
Marvin has a full menu of musical opportunities.

In addition to the Chancel Choir, there is Laude Chorum which enriches the 8:30 service, children's choir and a handbell group for adults. The Mewbourne Choir Enrichment Fund, established in 2007, has provided scholarships for college-age singers in the choir, workshops with noted choral clinicians, concert trips, choir retreats and numerous other enhancements to the music program.

The televising and livestreaming of our traditional services have introduced people to the powerful musical traditions at Marvin. With the establishment of the Core service, Marvin also offers contemporary music in the venue of Herd Worship Center.

As a church, we celebrated Marvin Methodist Church's 175th birthday on Nov. 12 with a commissioned choral anthem dedicated to this historic occasion. Noted composer Joseph Martin composed *Call to Commitment* and it was performed by Marvin's Chancel Choir accompanied by organ and full orchestra.

Strengthened and affirmed by our 175-year history of fine music, we at Marvin will continue to sing the glory of our Lord's name and make His praise glorious!







Meet Love Mercy International

Love Mercy International (LMI) is a ministry based in Lindale that helps meet physical, spiritual and mental needs of people in the greater Tyler area and around the world. Debbie Lascelles, a Marvin member, is founder and director. Katherine Ewing has joined the team and the two of them, with a few others, work together to have a local and global impact.

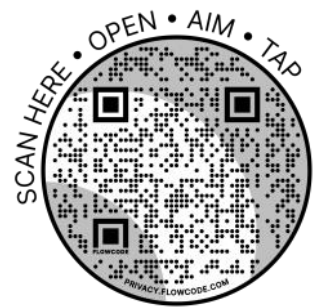
Locally, the LMI staff are working with at-risk youth, especially those challenged with mental health issues. Globally, they are working with women who have been affected by AIDS, poverty or have unfortunately become widows, learn skills to start their own small businesses in order to provide for their families.

Debbie and Katherine are long standing supported missionaries sent out from Marvin and we are excited to embark with them on this new journey. Please join us in praying for this new ministry. If you would like



DEBBIE AND CHRIS LASCELLES

more information, you may contact Adam Kovach (akovach@marvin.church), reach out to Debbie Lascelles (debbie.lascelles@lovemercyintl.org) or scan the code to visit their website.



Missions updates

Habits of the Heart

This month we are collecting items for Christmas Joy and blankets for people in need. Please bring toys and gifts for children newborn to age 17 valued at \$15. Toys can be dropped off at the collection shelf by the elevator across from the Welcome Center.

We are also collecting new blankets for the homeless. Drop your blankets at the Christmas tree shelves around the church.

Sweets for the Soul

Sweets for the Soul serves families of people under hospice care, delivering a little cheer by means of homemade desserts and cards of encouragement. We serve on the second Monday of each month at 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). Upcoming dates are Dec. 11. Jan. 8. Feb. 12.

December Serve Night

Bring your family, bring your friends and spend a couple of hours working on a project to help our community. Missions Serve Night is at 6 p.m. Monday, Dec. 18, in Pirtle Hall. We will assemble gifts for

people staying at Salvation Army during Christmas. Serve Night is on the third Monday of each month (except for the summer months). You don't need to

sign up, just show up!

Ring the bell

Marvin has a long history of serving with the Salvation Army. If you'd like to ring the bell, call Salvation Army Volunteer Coordinator Angie Ruffin (214.274.8455) to sign up or visit RegisterToRing.com. It's a great project for small groups or families.

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.



What CHRISTMAS JOY ?

Santa's Secret Workshop

started almost 20 years ago as a joint mission project between Marvin and St. Paul's to serve underprivileged families within our communities. Over the years the event has developed into what we now call Christmas Joy.

One-hundred-plus families are prayerfully screened and selected by staff from Bonner Elementary, Marvin Church, Vida Abundante, St. Paul Children's Services and Bethesda Pediatrics. Each referral is recognized as a family with needs or hardships. Parents are invited to come shopping for their children. Each child receives three gifts, a

stocking filled with goodies and a stuffed animal. The family also receives a gift and spiritual encouragement.

There is no cost to these families to partake in Christmas Joy. This program is made possible through your generosity—thank you!

How you can help:

Bring new unwrapped toys and gifts valued at \$15 each to Marvin by Dec. 10, or donate money and we will shop!



Sign up to serve—registration is open online or by calling the Welcome Center. Volunteers are needed to decorate, register, shop, stock, wrap, pray, translate, bake and take down.

Contact the Missions office for more information.

Serve this Christmas

Please contact April Lopez in the Missions office if you would like to get involved (ALopez@marvin.church).

METHODIST CHILDREN'S HOME FOSTER CHILDREN'S PARTY | 10 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 9 | Help with the party or provide a child's wish list.

CHRISTMAS JOY | Dec. 13-15 | We need lots and lots of new unwrapped toys and gifts (value \$15). Work a two-hour shifts as a general helper, shopper, stocker, greeter or gift wrapper. We also need help setting up and taking down.

HIWAY 80 CHRISTMAS CARD PARTIES | 10-11:30 a.m. and 3-4:30 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 6 | Parties 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.

HIWAY 80 CHRISTMAS EVENT IN LONGVIEW | Saturday, Dec. 16 | Marvin will have a booth at the Hiway 80 Family Christmas Event at the Maude Cobb Event Center in Longview.

CHRISTMAS BLANKETS FOR THOSE IN NEED | 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* on your check's memo section.

HOLIDAY SERVE NIGHT | 6 p.m. Monday, Dec. 18, in Pirtle Hall | Assemble gifts of love for people spending Christmas Day at the Salvation Army.

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.

Memorials and gifts as of Nov. 10

CHANCEL CHOIR ENRICHMENT

In honor of Paula & John Perkins and in memory of Tandy Brandt

Marilyn and John Hardy

CORE WORSHIP

In honor of

Connor Solomon

Tisa & Billy Hibbs

ETERNAL FLAME FUND

In memory of Paula Adaway

Kristen & Michael Arnett

Judy & John Guidry

Diane & Terry

Hawkins

Kay & George Rook

Susanna Wesley

Circle

In memory of

Patty Andrews

Charlotte Wilson

In memory of

Tandy Brandt

Donna & Gene

Bennett

Peggy & John Berry

Taylor Burns

Rebecca & David

Mohr

In memory of

Larry Childress

Taylor Burns

In memory of Meriam

Eakin

Janet Rippy

In memory of Shirley

Head

Tom Gregory

Steve & Renee

Manning Johnson

Rebecca & David

Mohr

In memory of

Carolyn & Bill Ross

Mr. & Mrs. Bob Eagle

Elaine & Steven

Pickett

Charlotte Wilson

In memory of

Harold Smith

Peggy & John Berry

Sherry & Ray Kent

Kay & Paul Latta

In memory of Cory

Stephens, Marvin

Stephens and Trey

Stephens

Gail White

MUSIC MINISTRY

In honor of Kara &

Jonathan Story

Frances & Johnny

Simpson

In memory of

Tandy Brandt

6:31 Men's Tuesday

Morning Bible Study

Celia & Joe Baldwin

Molly Metcalf

Deanna Olson

Becky & Jim

Robertson

Kay & George Rook

Gaye & Ron

Schoenbrun

Seekers Class

Tyler Chi Omega

Alumnae Group

Cynthia Watson

Charlotte Wilson

In memory of

Shirley Head

Deanna Olson

In memory of

Dean Young

Charlotte Wilson

PRAYER WARRIORS

In memory of

Paula Adaway

Kevan & Bryan Bauer

Louise Dyer

Jeanine & Francis

Franck

Jensy & Mike

Gregory

Paula & John Perkins

TV MINISTRY

In memory of

Larry Childress

Bonnie & Tab Beall

Phyllis & Terry Weiss

Sanctuary updates coming in 2024

A new LeTourneau organ is currently being built and is scheduled for installation in our sanctuary in 2025. Next year is the time to do all needed maintenance to the sanctuary, including painting, carpet replacement, LED lighting upgrades,



refinishing the pews and some chancel rail improvements. The scope of work is being finalized so costs can be determined. More information will be available in January.

While the repairs are underway, Traditional Worship will move to Pirtle Hall during the summer of 2024. We worshiped in Pirtle Hall during the major HVAC equipment installation and repairs several years ago; this time will be in anticipation of receiving our new organ!

Online giving changes

Have you heard? Marvin Church is transitioning to our own giving platform! It's simple and safe.

- Go to the marvin.church website
- Click on "Give" at the top right
- Click on "Give Online"
- Choose "Recurring Online Gifts" or "One-time Gift"
- Choose the ministry to which you would like to direct your gift
- Complete the required information portion

You are finished and have made your gift! Simple, right?

If you have any issues with this, please contact the finance department for assistance. Our previous online giving platform, Tithe.ly, will be available through the end of this year.

Financial update through October


	Oct. budget	Oct. actual	YTD budget	YTD actual
Gifts received/other income	\$ 382,713	\$ 297,180	\$ 3,171,063	\$ 3,154,471
Expenditures	\$ 340,937	\$ 332,618	\$ 3,642,605	\$ 3,419,343
Excess/(shortage)	\$ 41,776	\$ (35,438)	\$ (471,543)	\$ (264,872)

Attendance

Oct. 15	766
Oct. 22	759
Oct. 29	811
Nov. 5	768
Nov. 12	962

Contact the church

Marvin Church
300 W. Erwin Street
Tyler, TX 75702

 903.592.7396

 [Facebook.com/
Marvin.Methodist](https://www.facebook.com/Marvin.Methodist)

 info@marvin.church

 Marvin.church

Marvin Church by-laws being re-crafted for GMC denomination

Beginning in March, an ad hoc committee met monthly to draft the corporate by-laws for Marvin Methodist Church, Inc. Marvin Church's move to the Global Methodist Church opened an opportunity to review our corporate status.

In 1994, Marvin Church adopted corporate by-laws to provide rules for the governance of the church in accordance with Texas business law requirements. In January of this year, the church voted to change the church's name by filing a certificate of amendment with the Secretary of State of Texas. The *Global Methodist Church Transitional Book of Doctrines and Discipline* altered our connectional relationship. Under our new connection, we have more latitude to determine Marvin Church's governance.

To update and improve our operations, the current board of directors appointed by the 1994 by-laws, the



GLOBAL
METHODIST CHURCH

trustees of the church, will vote on the proposed new by-laws in December of 2023. The Administrative Council will vote on the proposed new by-laws at their Charge Conference meeting on Dec. 5. We will begin the new year under our new governance structure if adopted.

Special thanks to Rick Jett for leading our efforts this year and to the following committee members: Michael Arnett, Barbara Bass, John Berry, Russ Cooper, Marc Donaldson, Stuart Hene, Carolyn Hutson, Debbie Jordan, Neal Vasso, and

Geoffrey Willbanks working with Lead Pastor Doug Baker. Cory Halliburton, an attorney from Frisco who assisted many GMC churches in updating their governing documents, guided the committee in its work.

Once again, the collaboration of pastors, laity and staff working for God's mission improves our church.

Flock outdoor court shows our Spirit

By Rev. Jacob Joiner

Our multipurpose outdoor court has been open for a little over a month now! This amazing court has already seen plenty of use from all ages of Marvin members as well as others from the community!

Before we had the court, it was an old loading dock with a very steep decline below street level. This space has unfortunately been wasted for some time now because it was no longer being used for the original purpose and the slope was so steep that you couldn't even utilize it for parking or storage. It was a very uninviting and cold place on the Marvin Methodist Church campus. What could at one time be considered an unpleasant sight, is now an absolutely beautiful spot on our church campus that looks even more vibrant with people on it!

With this new outdoor court alongside the playground on the opposite side of the parking lot, the Spirited energy of Marvin Church can be better seen outside the

walls of our historic sanctuary and lively church home.

Playing some games of pickleball on the first evening that the court was opened showed me just how much traffic Elm Street receives. With our court now finished, those in the community driving or walking by the church can witness people of all ages, from the littles and youth all the way up to the retired community, utilizing this court with smiles on their faces! We've now had pickleball games, youth activities and even Fall Family Fun Night happen on this court, and I cannot wait for the other events we will see in the future that will utilize this gorgeous space!

Special thanks to:

- God (for giving us the vision for this unused space)



- The Flock family (for making this possible)
- Our very own Jason Jennings with Jennings Architects
- Our very own Donald Coe with Paragon Construction

Thank you for giving so generously to support God's work through the ministries of Marvin Church. Your gifts make ministry and mission happen.



Host a table at A Night at the Nativity

With the season of Advent, we excitedly wait for Jesus! The joys of fellowship with those we love blesses our hearts and draws us closer to God.

We are looking forward to a special opportunity this Christmas from 5 to 7 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 10, and we hope you will join us! This year, we are excited to welcome the residents of Breckenridge Village for an evening of carols, crafts, dinner and the story of Jesus' birth with our Marvin Kids and families.

We hope you will be a part of this gathering by hosting a table. By hosting a table, you are showing up to bless a resident from Breckenridge Village by bringing a Christmas card to share. We will provide a gift for all of the residents, but we are looking for families to be great hosts for the night!

Bring your kids and yourselves for a night of fun and festivities together with Breckenridge friends. To host a resident, let us know by emailing welovemarvinkids@gmail.com.

We look forward to this season and what God is doing in our ministry! We wait for Jesus, the greatest gift of all!





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Welcome
to Marvin



Tyler Adams



Azia Fields



Mike Starr

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 or order at marvin.church. The deadline to order is Wednesday, Dec. 13.

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

Stewardship

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