

A PUBLICATION OF MARVIN CHURCH

MarvinLife

March 2024



See more
young adults
on page 5.



marvin.church

Reflections from the lead pastor

In December 1944, during World War II, the German army launched a surprise attack that became the Battle of the Bulge. Six days later, American General Anthony McAuliffe found his troops surrounded in the town of Bastogne, Belgium. Besieged by a far greater force of German soldiers and armored units, McAuliffe assembled the 101 Airborne Division and surveyed the situation. A small German party, under a truce flag, delivered an ultimatum: immediate and unconditional surrender or face total annihilation and great humanitarian losses to the civilians in the city.

Upon receipt of the message, McAuliffe read it, crumpled into a ball, threw it in a wastepaper basket and uttered the words, "Aw, nuts!" Command officers

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Choosing to "flip the script" when facing challenges is not always the easiest choice, but it can bring some great rewards for those who have eyes to see different outcomes than what might first be suspected.

in charge of the reply to the communication sought to find suitable language for the official reply. Apparently, the dispatch read as follows: "To the German Commander. NUTS! The American Commander."

While the message was being sent back to German leadership, McAuliffe gathered his troops and stated, "Men, we are surrounded by the enemy. We have the

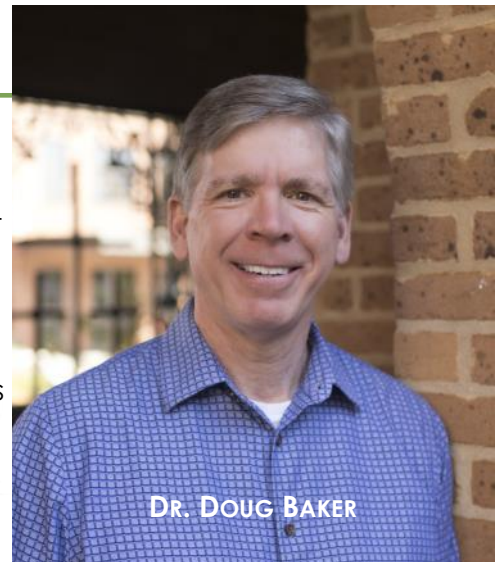
greatest opportunity ever presented to an army. We can attack in any direction."

In psychological terms, this is referred to as cognitive reappraisal—telling yourself a different story about what is happening. In other words, it's "flipping the script" or reframing the situation, looking at it from a different vantage point.

Word spread through American ranks of the courageous spirit of the 101 Airborne and their commander. Though the German forces attempted several infantry and tank assaults and the Luftwaffe bombed the city nightly, the Americans held the town until reinforcements arrived. For his actions, General McAuliffe was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross, the second-highest military decoration, second only to the Medal of Honor awarded by the President of the United States.

What a great story. Choosing to "flip the script" when

facing challenges is not always the easiest choice, but it can bring some great rewards for those who have eyes to see different outcomes than what might first be suspected. Are there Biblical examples of this? Absolutely.



DR. DOUG BAKER

In the book of Genesis, Joseph is sold into slavery by his brothers, wrongly accused of wrongdoing by Potipher's wife and forgotten by fellow prisoners he helped. It is 13 years before he is given the opportunity to become vice-regent to the Pharaoh. When given the later opportunity to get back at his brothers for what they had done to him, Joseph has already "flipped the script" on his life story. "You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good" (Genesis 50:20).

During his first imprisonment in Rome, Paul tells the Philippian church that his imprisonment helped to spread the gospel. As imperial guards were chained to him, he made Christ known to them, sharing the gospel. His imprisonment also inspired people in the church to be bolder in their witness to others (see Philippians 1:12-14). Paul "flips the script." Chain me to a guard and I have a captive audience. Put me in prison and the church witnesses more boldly.

On the Tuesday following Easter Sunday, Bibles and hymnals will be boxed up and relocated out of the sanctuary to prepare the space for the maintenance work (painting, floor refinishing, pew restoration, chancel modifications, lighting and sound work that will be done in preparation for organ installation.) Like updates done to our homes, this will require us to vacate our beautiful sanctuary for five months and shut down the space for use. Though this will be a sacrifice and an inconvenience (it always is), it will bring forth for the church an equally beautiful sanctuary ready to house our new Letourneau organ in 2025.

As I think about traditional worship in Pirtle Hall for the months of April through August, at first it seems like a long time to be away from a treasured sacred space. But using cognitive reappraisal, "flipping the script," I get excited thinking about some of the creative things we can do. The room is a very lively room, so congregational singing will be fantastic. Because the

(Reflections continued on page 4)



Lent and Easter

Lent is a season of reflection and preparation: We reflect on our need for a Savior and we prepare to celebrate the victory of Christ, raised from the dead on Easter.

Weekly fast | During the season of Lent many people give something up as an expression of their dependence upon Christ. Additionally, some people take something on. Consider fasting from one meal a week. Rather than eating lunch on Wednesday, come to Midweek services and receive the sacrament of holy communion. See marvin.church for resources about fasting.

Midweek Meditation | Worship at 12:05 p.m. each Wednesday in the chapel.

Holy Week

Palm Sunday, March 24 | All services feature palm processions with our children

Midweek Holy Week service, March 27 | 12:05 p.m. in the sanctuary

Maundy Thursday, March 28 | Tenebrae service, 6 p.m. in Herd Worship Center

Good Friday, March 29 | Marvin Concert Series presents *Requiem* by Mark Hayes, conducted by Mark Hayes

Butterflies

Kids are invited to release butterflies at 10:15 a.m. in Bergfeld Park and 10:30 a.m. in the church courtyard.

Lilies and blankets

Honor or remember loved ones with a gift of fans to help people in need or Easter lilies to decorate our worship spaces. Pick up an order form around the church or order at marvin.church. Cost is \$20 each (add \$1 for online orders). The deadline to place your order is March 20.

Easter Celebrations Sunday, March 31

Sunrise service

6:30 a.m. in Marvin's courtyard

Pirtle Hall in case of rain

Traditional services

8:15, 9:30 and 11 a.m. in the stained-glass sanctuary

Core community service

10:30 a.m. in Bergfeld Park

8:30 and 11 a.m. in Herd Worship Center in case of rain

Memorials and gifts as of Feb. 10

ETERNAL FLAME FUND

In memory of Meriam Eakin

Joyce & Kip Camp

In memory of Pat Frase

Shirley Kimble

Loretta & Tommy Lloyd

Betty & Ronnie Odom

Barbara Osada

In memory of Ovada Horne

Nancy Crim

Cathy Hall

Laura & John Hall

Jan & Brian Hancock

Rebecca & David Mohr

Anne & Carl Wester

In memory of Bette King

Ann & Roy Lilly

In memory of

Carolyn & Bill Ross

Debbie & Randy Cook

In memory of Sara Simons

Ann Norris

Anita Nourse

Stephenie & Randy Roberts

Squyres & Co LLP

Anne & Carl Wester

FOUNDATION

In memory of Paula

Adaway, Tandy Brandt,

Connie Hawkins, Bette King

and Collin Walker

Mary Ann & Ray Cozby

In memory of Doris Mock

Tisa & Billy Hibbs

MISSIONS

In memory of Patty

Andrews

Debbie & Randy Cook

MUSIC

In memory of Tandy Brandt

and Pat Frase

Debbie & Randy Cook

WOMEN'S MINISTRY

In memory of Paula

Adaway, Phyllis Theriot

and Stacy Sloane

Tricia & Steve Wiggs



Come eat at men's chili cookoff

Our Men's Ministry is partnering with Missions to showcase what it looks like to be the hands and feet of Jesus through our Great Day of Service! We're having a chili cookoff March 24 in Pirtle Hall. All are welcome to come and eat after the 11 a.m. service. There'll be a fun competition to see who can cook the best chili.

We ask the men in the church to sign up by sending an email to jjoiner@marvin.church. You can compete individually or as a team (with your family, discipleship band or class meeting) to win the chili champ trophy! Contestants should prepare their entry the night before and bring it in a slow cooker or warmer the morning of the event. Electrical hook-ups and tables will be available for everyone's chili entry and fixings. Cost is \$5 per person for tickets and votes. Spread your tickets out to vote for multiple people or use them all for one giant vote.

All proceeds will go to Hiway 80 Rescue Mission's Triumph Village. Through their New Creation Discipleship Program, this Marvin mission partner provides new starts in life for men derailed by alcohol or drug abuse or other destructive behaviors.

Come and enjoy this fun and tasty way of celebrating all the hard work that was done the day before at our Great Day of Service!



Reflections from the pastor

(Continued from page 2)

floorplan is different than the sanctuary, people will sit in different locations than usual. (What we discovered when we did this in 2014 is that people got to know different people because they were sitting in different seats.) We can also insert video testimonies or pictures from Mission Week and VBS into the services, along with video greetings from some of our missionaries and summer mission teams. Ten years ago, we inserted some great testimonies from our children that inspired the membership.

Being out of the sanctuary for five months might sound like something for

which you would like to reply, "Aw, nuts!" But what if God were to use this time to renew our church, celebrate our ministries and help us make new friends in our worship space? It may take a little "reframing" or creative imagination to get excited about this temporary change in our worship life, but I think most of us can agree that when we return, the sacrifice will have been worth it. Comprehensive maintenance like this won't have to be done for another 20 years!

Thanks Marvin Church! I love you and appreciate you.

Doug

Financial update through January

	Jan. budget	Jan. actual	YTD budget	YTD actual
Gifts received/other income	\$ 351,761	\$ 401,865	\$ 351,761	\$ 410,865
Expenditures	\$ 385,805	\$ 341,201	\$ 385,805	\$ 341,201
Excess/(shortage)	\$ (34,043)	\$ 69,664	\$ (34,043)	\$ 69,664

Attendance

Jan. 14590
Jan. 21824
Jan. 28829
Feb. 4870
Feb. 11716

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

Young Adults Ministry is flourishing

Our Sunday School class for young adults (between 18 and 35) is seeing consistent personal, as well as class size, growth and energy. People are developing a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ and each other through our young adult Wesleyan Class Meeting.

Our Sunday School class is a discussion-based Bible study that engages everyone with the scripture passage of the week. A typical class outline opens with any prayer requests followed by a passage of scripture for the week. We read the text and then biblical and cultural context is given before we dive deeper into what the passage says about God, people and the relationship between God and people. Throughout the lesson, questions are asked that help us to



see how God is still at work and how the Bible is still relevant, active and necessary for us today!

At our young adult Wesleyan Class Meeting we have dinner together as we answer the specific question that was sent out a week ahead of time so everyone has time to think and pray about it. This question is geared towards making us dig deeper than surface level to be honest with how we have (or even haven't) been aware of God's presence in our lives. After we've all had time to share and

pray, we typically play a fun game together to close out our night.

God is doing amazing work in and through this ministry! We are planning out more events for the future like retreats, mission projects and other exciting things. If you have friends or family who fit this age group, please let them know they have a place to fit in and grow in their faith here at Marvin. Want to get involved? Contact Rev. Jacob Joiner (jjoiner@marvin.church).

Basketball, pickleball, volleyball off to a great start

This year is off to a great start with our basketball, pickleball and volleyball offerings! Last year we hit a sad but necessary bump in the road for our recreational offerings due to our gym needing to have fresh paint and a new floor. During the makeover of the gym, pickleball moved off campus and volleyball was completely shut down, and we were worried about being able to host Starters Basketball again. Thankfully the beautiful work inside the gym and the breathtaking outdoor court were finished before the end of the year, so we got to thoroughly enjoy them before the holidays came.

Through January and February, we have had an absolute blast with friends and strangers who are quickly becoming new friends. People walked inside the doors of Marvin Church for the first time because we offer basketball, pickleball and volleyball. Our rekindled partnership with First Baptist Church through Starters Basketball has been a blessing for the children and everyone else involved. People have come to check out our worship services as well!

Through these games, relationships are being built and



people are being led into deeper relationship with Christ. Thank all of you for the support you've given this ministry through your prayers, presence and gifts. If it wasn't for you, we wouldn't have these opportunities to meet people and share with them the good news of Jesus Christ in such a fun and healthy way!





WCC WOMEN'S CO



the

CONFERENCE



Vacation Bible School—Start the party!

It takes a village to make VBS possible! If you're able to join us as we Start the Party, save the date for registration to open!

All volunteers get first priority registering their kids and grandkids, so watch for March 10! The party starts for completed kinder to fifth grades. Pre-K VBS is offered to littles of volunteers.

VBS events

March 10 | RSVP opens to VBS volunteers and their kids

March 31 | RSVP opens to Marvin Church

May 5 | RSVP opens to the public

May 20 | VBS Serve Night, 6 to 8 p.m.

June 26 | VBS work night, 6 to 8 p.m.



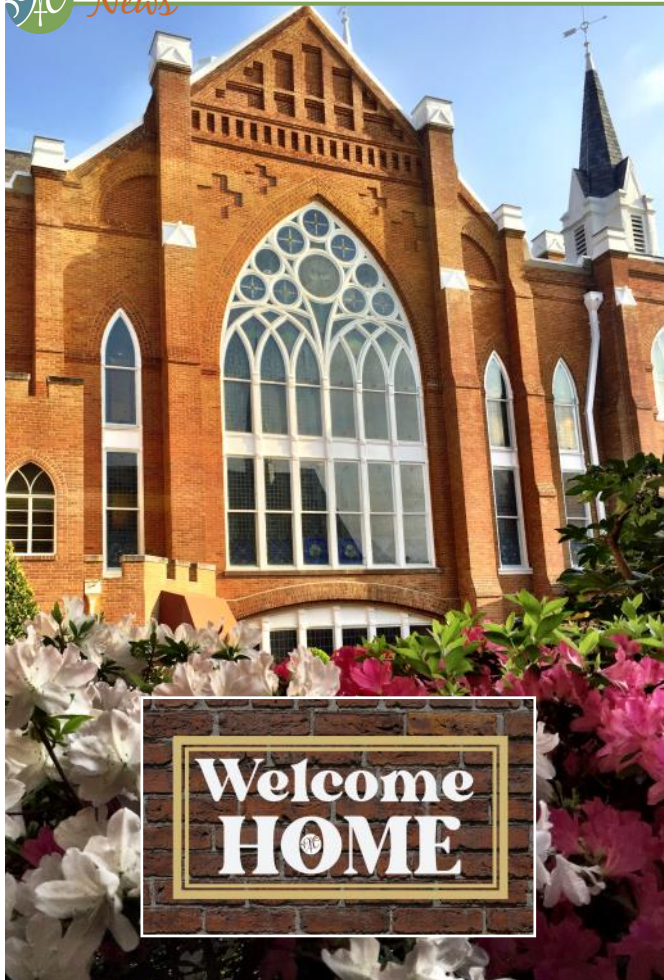
July 9 and 11 | Work day, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

July 10 | Work night, 6 to 8 p.m.

July 15-18 | VBS week, 8:30 a.m.

to noon

July 21 | Celebration Sunday, 11 a.m.



Welcome HOME

We are called. Called to love, to uplift, to encourage, to champion, to challenge and to see people. Sometimes in a space as big as Marvin, people can feel lost in the crowd. That's not God's heart, so a team of Marvin people partnered with God's heart and got to praying: *How do we help the people who walk through our doors feel seen?*

We came up with an idea called Welcome HOME Sunday School class. This is a four-week, bi-monthly class led by our own laity who are gifted in teaching, sharing and seeing people. HOME—History, Overview, Ministry, Explore. The four weeks will include a brief history of Marvin, an overview of spiritual gifts, a deep-dive into the Discipleship Pathway and ministry opportunities and exploring how to plug in.

This Sunday School class will give newcomers or even long-time members a place to learn about themselves and the gifts God has given them and about where they are on the Discipleship Pathway, and then will launch them into ministries and opportunities to fill their cups and sharpen their iron, creating a space for people to be loved, uplifted, encouraged, championed, challenged and seen!

The next class will meet from 9:45 to 10:45 a.m. March 3, 10, 17 and 24 in the Gathering Place. If you have questions or if you want to be a part in any way—teaching, attending, etc.—contact Alicia (amanfrin@marvin.church).

How's our health?

Three years ago, Marvin Church used a spiritual life inventory to give us a snapshot-in-time of our church health. Our purpose as the Body of Christ is to be disciples who make disciples. The question we wanted to answer was, *How are we doing?* In all honesty, the answer was, *Not that bad.* But there is always room for growth. The time has come to measure growth.

We will gather data using a resource called Renovo for Churches, a spiritual life inventory that will give us insight to our overall church health. Marvin Church, we have an open window from April 7 to April 28 to take the Renovo Survey.

Our prayer is that God would once again show us how we are doing. More than that, our prayer is that God would wake us up, that he would make us hungry, that he would truly satisfy and that he would lead us into life and health.

Our goal is to make disciples. Not members. Not to increase programming or worship attendance. But to make disciples. And as we do that, as we focus on being and making disciples, it will affect the whole. Dream with me about being a healthy and vibrant church that is making disciples.

- About the spiritual practices of the disciples in that church.
- About the behaviors of the disciples in that church.
- About the influence in the community of the disciples in that church.
- About the partnership with God.



- About the creativity from the Most Creative One.
 - About the Kingdom of God. Right here. Right now.
- I don't want to go to that church.
I want to be that church.
I am that church.
And so are you.

A blood donation is the gift of life



The January blood drive collected 32 units. This means 96 people and their families will have a better, brighter tomorrow.

Currently in the United States only 3 percent of the population donates 100 percent of the blood supply. Just a few years ago the number was 7 percent. As the need for blood grows, the supply continues to dwindle. The need is real as told

by someone who attends Marvin church. "I had a liver transplant and due to complications needed two additional surgeries. I required a great amount of blood and platelets. I would not be here today without the transfusions."

Human blood is absolutely amazing. God created something that man cannot reproduce. Scientist have spent years trying to manufacture artificial blood and are not even close. The only source of blood is donors like you. Marvin Church has a long and rich history of mission work and giving back a little of the gifts God has given each of us.

We know not everyone can donate. Many have medical reasons and should not donate. For the rest of us please consider donating at the remaining Marvin drives this year: April 14, June 23, Aug. 25 and Nov. 10.

We know it's the job of super heroes to save lives, but ordinary people can save lives every day. While going about their day to day lives they pause for 30 minutes and donate a unit of blood. Three lives are saved with that one unit.

A blood donation is the gift of life. Who knows, maybe you really are a super hero!

GREAT DAY of SERVICE

Saturday, March 23

Mark your calendars for our annual Great Day of Service set for Saturday, March 23! This hands-on missions event offers a wide variety of projects for all ages. The kick off begins at 8 a.m. in Pirtle

Hall with breakfast and a devotion. Then we break into work teams and head out for a full day of service in our community. Lunch will be provided on all work sites. We will offer childcare at Marvin, but you must call and

register with our children's department. We generally finish all projects by 4 p.m. Register at marvin.church or at the table in the Atrium (opens March 1).

Sanctuary renovation: It's moving time!

Easter Sunday, March 31, will be the final service in the sanctuary before it is closed for Phase 1 renovations. Services are scheduled to return to the sanctuary in mid-September. However, before the contractors can begin their work, we need to clear out the sanctuary and surrounding spaces.

If you have ever moved houses, you know what a big job it is to box everything safely, make sure boxes are labeled properly and store them securely until they can be unpacked. Because the work will begin the week after Easter and we will use the space through Easter, there is



not much that can be packed ahead of time. We need a group of volunteers to make this move happen. How can you help?

Serve on the packing team to pack items. Another team will move boxes to their temporary location. Contact Regina Childress (rchildress@marvin.church) to serve.

Donate boxes. They should be clean, sturdy and have lids or flaps that close.

We will box items on Tuesday, April 2. Volunteers should meet in the sanctuary at 9 a.m. for instructions. If necessary, we will continue working on April 3.

In September, we will need another team to reset the sanctuary and other spaces to prepare for worship. Watch for details about our move-in date later this year.

Africa update: preparing for floods

At the very end of January, Tanzania received a lot of unexpected rain, which led to a lot of flooding. These floods wiped away entire roads, a few bridges and even some homes.

Losing even just one bridge makes the journey to and from places in Tanzania far more difficult. In the U.S. if a road is under construction, we have plenty of detour options. That is, however, not the case in Tanzania. They rely heavily on the few main roads they have.

After reaching out to Alfred Njau and hearing just how bad the flooding was, it became quite evident that there were some things that needed to be repaired and some things that needed to be built entirely new, quickly.

With the rainy season just around the corner in the middle of March, Alfred and the Amazing Grace Church in Tanzania got to work digging trenches and fitting them with concrete to divert water faster and more efficiently from potential flooding. Their prayer with these trenches is that the Amazing Grace Church and the family homes in the area will be spared from any damage in the upcoming rainy season.

Thank you Marvin Church for your continued support of Alfred and the Amazing Grace Church.



Missions updates

March Serve Night

This month's Serve Night will be off campus at the East Texas Food

We need to know you're coming, so please email April in the Missions office to reserve your spot by March

15 (alopez@marvin.church).

If you're interested, we will meet for dinner and fellowship at 5:15 p.m. at Rudy's Barbecue on the Loop near the food bank. Dinner is on your own.

March Habits of the Heart

This month, bring books and board games for adults at Cenikor, a local

recovery treatment facility. Items can be gently used, but games must have all the pieces. Drop your donations on the collection shelf across from the Welcome Center.

April Habits of the Heart

This month we are collecting baby wipes, Similac baby formula and all sizes of diapers and pull-ups. Items will be used for Methodist Children's Home foster children in Tyler. Bring your items to the collection shelf across from the Welcome Center.



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 the second Monday of each month—March 11—at Hospice of East Texas.

If you would like to be part of our fabulous baking crew or want more information, contact April Lopez (903.592.7396 X121 or alopez@marvin.church).

**MISSION WEEK
DATE CHANGE:
SATURDAY, JUNE 1
THROUGH
FRIDAY, JUNE 7**

Bank. Meet at 6 p.m. March 18 in the volunteer building at the food bank, 3201 Robertson Road. Entrance is from the back side of the building. Kids over 6 are welcome, but must have a one-on-one adult.



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Methodist Church

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Welcome to Marvin



Thomas Bailey



Leah and Andrew Philley,
Jack and Luke



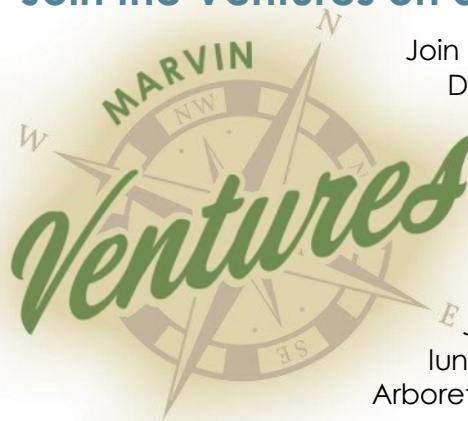
Jessica Roqueburg



Sherry Waterhouse



Join the Ventures on an adventure



Join the Ventures on a trip to Dallas Blooms on Thursday, March 21. Each year, the Dallas Arboretum and Botanical Garden transforms with a breathtaking display featuring 500,000 blooms. Join us for a guided tour and lunch in the middle of the Arboretum's breathtaking 66 acres.

The registration deadline is Sunday, March 3. Email bstevens@marvin.church for more details or to register for this event.

Ventures is a group of adults (mainly senior adults but everyone's invited!) who travel together, mostly day trips with occasional overnight journeys, and have other special events. The group will travel to Fort Worth on Thursday and Friday, April 18 and 19, to visit the stockyards and the John Wayne Museum, with overnight accommodations at the Hyatt Place.