

A Publication Of Marvin Church • April 2025



MarvinLife



Inside:
2025 Strategic
Plan Update

In the first Chapter of John's Gospel, Philip, after meeting Jesus, quickly finds Nathaniel and tells him, "We have found the one Moses wrote about in the Law, and about whom the prophets also wrote – Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph." Nathaniel responds, "Can anything good come from there?" Philip responds, "Come and see" (John 1:44-45). Philip offers Nathaniel an invitation to come and see for himself.

Inside this special addition of Marvin Life, you will find the 2025 Strategic Plan that has been developed by our Strategic Planning Committee and adopted by the Marvin Church Council. Within it, you will find one of the key initiatives of this year: to shift Marvin's culture from being a "welcoming" church to being an "inviting" church. What could be even better than "Come and see"? How about "Come with me"?

As you read and reflect upon the Strategic Plan included in these pages, I remind you that the plan for the past five years has been organized around the five pillars of worship, discipleship, people, stewardship, and service. This has served us well as a helpful tool for organizing our plans and objectives. Staff members have partnered with laity to prayerfully identify and strategize around the goals, objectives, and action items planned. Here are a few of the items that I am excited about:

- Involving more laity in worship leadership.
- Inviting our church members to come and pray once month in the chapel to "sit with God," discern God's will for our church, and listen for what God desires to show us.
- Elevating the ministry of Life-to-Life discipleship as tool to help us move people forward in the discipleship pathway along with our bands, class meetings, Sunday School classes and midweek offerings.
- Growing the Marvin Methodist Foundation through a "Legacy Luncheon" to encourage planned giving and other offerings to the Foundation as we also support the operating budget.
- Expanding the "Brick Street Block Party" (involving more churches) while we intentionally continue to reach out to our downtown neighbors.
- Involving more people (of all ages) in both local and international missions.

As mentioned above, I am most excited about moving our church from being a "welcoming" church to an "inviting" church. Instead of "Come and see Marvin," I hope that people will begin to say "Come with me":

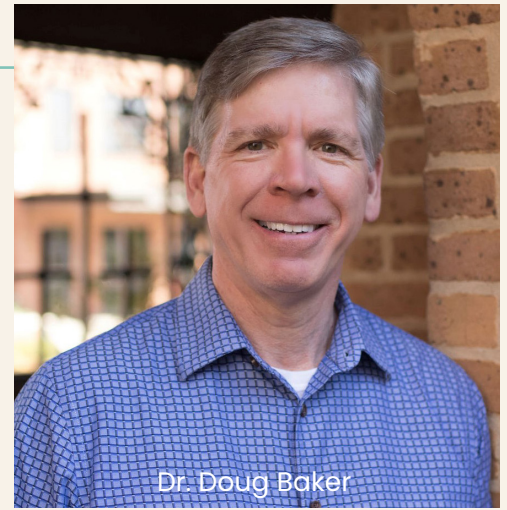
- to lunch after church services.
- to my Sunday School Class or my Bible study.
- to a mission serve night, to the Great Day of Service, or to a Mission Week site.
- to participate in Christ centered friendship with "Life-to-Life."
- to attend a "Unite" youth event.

The invitation to "Come with me" to a youth event hits really close to my heart and my testimony. As I have shared on multiple occasions with the church family, my family became "unchurched" soon after a move from California to Houston. After a few attempts to connect with a church soon after our move, trips to see family in Texas (now that we were closer in proximity), and full Saturdays with three boys in sporting activities, soon landed my family into the "CE" camp for worship practices. Yes, we settled into worshipping on the high holy days of Christmas and Easter. This was our worship and church-life activity for ten years.

It is funny, but I even have a very vivid memory of a good friend telling me that his family was starting to attend church on Sunday mornings which meant that he would not be available to shoot baskets or play football or baseball until Sunday afternoons. I remember how disappointed I was to learn this news.

At the age of 15, another friend of mine began to invite me to attend youth gatherings with him at the Methodist Church. Though I initially turned him down on several occasions, I finally accepted his invitation because now, as a student driver, he (along with his mother in the front seat) would drive me to church. I decided to go, accepting his invitation to "Come with me."

After making some new friends and being embraced by the new community, I continued to participate in youth gatherings and even sang in the youth choir. My involvement in the church now included worshipping on Sunday mornings. Soon came the day when the gospel was preached at a youth event, and I heard the gospel presented in a way that I knew I needed to say "yes" to Christ



Dr. Doug Baker

Holy Week & Easter at Marvin

April 13
Palm Sunday

April 17
Maundy Thursday
6 p.m., Herd Worship Center

April 18
Good Friday
7 p.m., *Requiem*
free concert, Sanctuary

April 20
Easter Services

Sunrise Service
6:30 a.m., Courtyard

Traditional Worship
8:15, 9:30. & 11 a.m., Sanctuary

Core Worship in the Park
10:30 a.m., Bergfeld Park

Butterfly Release
Bergfeld Park at 10:15
Marvin courtyard, 10:30

Reflections cont.

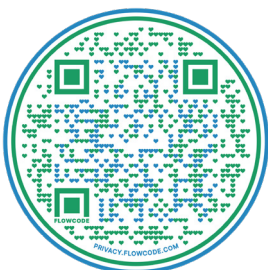
and his Lordship of my life. More than the invitation to "Come and see," my friend David offered me the invitation to "Come with me." This ultimately led me to the decision to respond to the One who said, "Come, follow me."

There is more to the story. Because of my commitment to Christ, my parents reconnected with the church and became active in its ministries. Also, I had the privilege of leading my brother to Christ, sharing with him in his conversion. Four years later, the Lord called me to full-time ministry. My life direction was altered for the better by a friend's invitation to "Come with me."

Is there a person that God desires to reach through you?

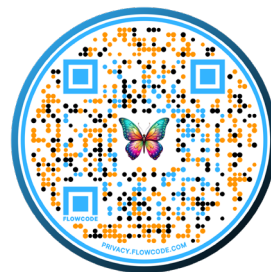
Doug

*Scan for Lead
Pastor's Strategic
Plan Update*

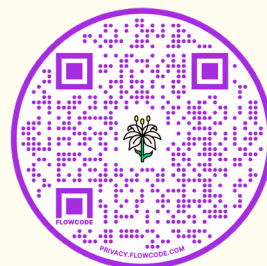


Butterfly release, two locations

We look forward to celebrating our risen Savior on Easter Sunday and releasing butterflies together. Our butterfly release is a beautiful tradition, and we are excited to do it again this year at Bergfeld Park at 10:15 and the courtyard of Marvin at 10:30. If you have children, scan the code to register for your family's butterflies.



Lilies & Fans



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 from the table near the Welcome Center, order at marvin.church or scan the code above. Cost is \$20 each (add \$1 for online orders). The deadline to place your order is April 13.

Feed My Sheep

We are proud to partner with three area food banks that help serve the needs of our neighbors. The East Texas Food Bank serves 26 counties throughout East Texas, the Noonday Food Bank, although not limited by zip code, serves areas south of Tyler, and the St. Paul Children's Services Food Bank which serves primarily the St. Paul/East Tyler neighborhoods.

While Marvin supports these worthy agencies through our budget, we also encourage you to explore serving at each of these agencies! Noonday has service opportunities every Monday, St. Paul's every Thursday and our Marvin Serve Night on April 28 will be at the East Texas Food Bank. Help us feed HIS sheep!

Call the Missions department for more information.

Fruits of the Spirit - Bonner News



We continue to bless the Bonner Elementary teachers with monthly reminders of how they are loved and appreciated. This year we are doing so by way of the "Fruits of the

Spirit" teachings. Last month we found Fruits of the Spirit insulated cup sleeves and they were such a hit! The focus in April is self-control. Keep all our teachers in your prayers this Spring!

The fifth grade Bonner graduation breakfast and ceremony will be hosted by Marvin in Herd Auditorium on May 22.



Serve Nights at Marvin



Habits of the Heart: To support the after-school programs and upcoming summer camps we will be collecting dry snacks for the Mentoring Alliance. Specific items needed are individual serving sizes of: Cheez-its, Chex-mix, pretzels, Goldfish Crackers, juice boxes/bags

Serve Night, Monday, April 28, 6 p.m.

We are taking Serve Night off campus in April! Serve Night will be at the East Texas Food Bank. **Spots are limited** so please reserve your spot by calling the Missions office by noon on Monday, April 28. Participants must be seven years of age or older for this project.



Ways to Serve

Sweets for the Soul: Make homemade cookies and treats for families in HOSPICE care. Contact Kenley Kizer for more information. Our next delivery is April 14

Tejas Mission

Tejas Mission, led by Marvin Methodist Church member Dr. David Nichols, went to Belize for their yearly dental and medical mission trip. They traveled deep into the jungles of Belize to meet the people living there to put on medical clinics, provide medicine, and offer advice for ongoing treatment as well as sharing stories from the Bible with those they are serving. Dr. Eric Smith and Melissa Black also joined the team from Marvin. When asked how the trip went, Dr. Smith said, "Our trip to Belize was another great one with a lot of good accomplished for the Kingdom! In addition to helping many with dental and medical care, we saw God work through us to help people, not only physically, but spiritually. It was also amazing to see how God provided additional medication when we had used up all that we had brought with us and put us in situations to help/provide guidance to those with challenging medical issues. We were blessed beyond what we could have imagined!"



PHA (Program for Humanitarian Aid)

PHA also had a busy 2024. In their yearly review, they shared that 4,670 Ukrainian families and individuals were served, 3,150 food and hygiene packs were personally delivered with a smile and a hug, 2,342 individuals received help from a trauma therapist, 653 new church visitors came in response to ongoing humanitarian aid efforts, 32 internally displaced Ukrainians placed into long-term housing, and 20 Ukrainian ministry partners and volunteers serving those in need.

The world is in need, whether that's a new set of dentures, filling a cavity, receiving food and hygiene packs or trauma counseling, Marvin members are committed to being the hands and feet of Jesus.

Upcoming Mission trips:

Tanzania June 14-24

Northern Japan Spring 2026

Contact Adam akovach@marvin.church



Life-to-Life

Creating Christ-Centered Relationships

Life-to-Life" Ministry to Be Elevated as a Part of Strategic Plan to "Grow Disciples"

The Discipleship Team of Marvin Church has given the congregation a great gift in creating the "discipleship pathway" and suggested programming to help members of the church move forward in their faith journey. All classes and studies at Marvin are valuable, but the addition of bands and class meetings, along with the new class called "the Walk" are specifically designed to help individuals move from "growing in Christ" to "close to Christ," and specifically "Christ-centered."

Life-to-Life is a curriculum written by Doug and Gina Baker that has been utilized over the past twelve years in the church to create Christ-centered relationships for the purpose of discipleship. The easy-to-use curriculum is designed to teach spiritual practices through experiential learning, so that the follower of Christ may be equipped for consistent spiritual growth and faithful service.

Participants connect once a week at an agreed upon time and location to share in the lessons, share personal faith stories, learn and expand upon devotional practices, and encourage one another in serving out of God-given spiritual gifts and ministry passions. A frequent favorite of the program is the organizing and sharing of one's faith story and the understanding and articulation of God's salvation story.

In support of the elevation of the Life-to-Life ministry, Church Council members have agreed to be trained in the program and experience the ministry over the summer months before the fall church emphasis. On Wednesdays in (April 2, 9, 23, and 30) at 6 p.m., our leaders will be trained in how to use the curriculum. **The church is invited to attend these training sessions and begin experiencing the blessing of the ministry.** Imagine a church where members are trained to walk alongside a brother or sister in Christ for the purpose of growing in love of God and one another. If you have questions, feel free to call Doug or Gina Baker.

VISION FOR

Scan the QR codes for

WORSHIP

We are drawn closer to God and encounter God personally through our regular attendance in worship.

MATTHEW SAYS

"For where two or three gather in my name, there I am with them."
(Matthew 18:20)

Let's build on our church's long-standing commitment to call people to encounter God, whether it's in our historic stained glass sanctuary, or beautiful Herd worship center, or intimate chapel.

- **Invite a greater diversity of laity to participate in worship leadership roles to give visible expression in worship of the diverse population of Marvin Methodist Church.**
- **Present worship opportunities that actively engage, genuinely connects, personally addresses and deeply challenges congregants to anticipate and expect God's presence in worship.**

DISCIPLESHIP

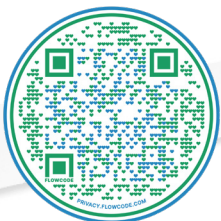
A disciple is a follower of Jesus Christ who is growing in love for God and others. Marvin's discipleship pathway aligns with Jesus's Great Commission (Matthew 28:18–20) by equipping believers to take meaningful next steps in their spiritual journey. Through intentional formation, deep community, and active participation in the life of the church, we cultivate disciples who make disciples.

- **Establish a regular rhythm of prayer for Marvin Church**
- **Create a visible, permanent installation of the Discipleship Pathway on campus**
- **Enhance the website for greater discipleship engagement**
- **Offer *The Walk* curriculum as a midweek study**
- **Strengthen and expand Life-to-Life mentoring**
- **Support Walk to Emmaus participation and follow-up**
- **Host a *DiscipleForward* Workshop in partnership with Ascending Leaders**
- **Provide enrichment opportunities for parents and marriages**

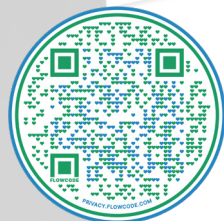
PEOPLE

We believe it is important to have a dynamic community which encourages Christ-centered people, provides comfort during difficult times, and gives opportunities for growth. We welcome Christ-centered people, welcoming newcomers, building relationships, caring for the vulnerable, and empowering servant leaders.

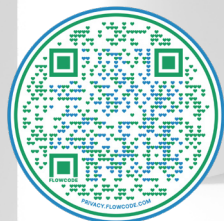
- **Culture shift from a traditional church to an inviting church**
- **Build relationships through recreational offerings**
- **Unify downtown (and surrounding) churches**
- **Develop lay congregational ministry**
- **Build relationships through community events**
- **Re-imagine and grow our ministry**



*Worship
Updates*



*Discipleship
Updates*



THE FUTURE

special video messages

STEWARDSHIP

Stewardship is more than giving money. Stewardship is how we take care of all that is given to us. It is giving time. It is giving service. It is maintaining our beautiful facility. It is supporting our ministries. God calls us to be good stewards of everything entrusted to us, and to joyfully and generously share with brothers and sisters.

- **Encourage philanthropic giving to Marvin Methodist Church by employing various methods of communication with the congregation (including members and regular visitors). Monies raised will be used to fund the annual ministry and missions budgets.**
- **Inform church how ministry and missions projects are funded**
- **Promote giving through messages across all communication channels**
- **Educate Marvin congregation and regular visitors about the financial growth of the Marvin Foundation and raise awareness and understanding of the Foundation and how it relates to other types of giving at Marvin**

SERVICE

Building on our reputation as a hands-on missions' church, Marvin strives to engage in both local and international missions. Service opportunities include local and regional construction projects, serving a meal under the bridge, mentoring a child, or providing essentials such as food, shelter, or utilities to the those in need both here in our community as well as through those we partner with around the globe. Service means following Jesus into a life of caring for others, whether that be on your own or as a part of our faith community. Service, put simply, has endless possibilities.

- **Ensure Marvin Missions continuity and growth while building on its history and impact**
- **Encourage and promote a culture of servanthood by connecting members with service opportunities while building collaboration with our partner agencies**
- **Expand and nurture Marvin's service and impact in our local community**
- **Develop and enhance Marvin's support of international ministries, missionaries and international trips**

People
Updates



Stewardship
Updates



Service
Updates

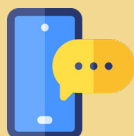


Marvin's Moms

Mom's of Marvin is a community of mothers of children ages birth-kindergarten. Together we bond over the joys and difficulties of early motherhood, while enjoying childcare, breakfast, devotionals, mentorship, and guest speakers. They will meet at 10 a.m. on the second and fourth Thursday of the month.



Mom's of Marvin at Night is a group for mothers of preschoolers who need to meet in the evening. They will meet at 6 p.m. on the second and fourth Thursday of the month for fellowship, encouragement, and to experience the transforming power of God's presence. We hope to see you April 10 & 24, and we encourage you to bring a friend!



To stay up to date on Marvin Women's Ministry gathering and opportunities be sure to text **"womens"** to **90382**.

Women's Circles

Susanna Wesley Circle

We will gather at Marvin Methodist Church in the Garden Room on Monday, April 21, at 10 a.m. Andrea Wilson will be speaking to us about a great non-profit organization in Tyler. She is the Executive Director of PATH and will share with us what PATH's goals and missions are and how we can help as citizens of Tyler. All women are welcome, and we encourage you to bring a friend.

Amazing Grace Night Circle

We will gather for a special Easter event, He Walks with Me in the Garden, on April 15, at 6:00 p.m. All women are welcome! Feel to bring a friend or someone new to Marvin!! We hope to see you April 10 & 24, and we encourage you to bring a friend!

Women's Ministry Pop Up Event

Lunch is better when you're surrounded by friends and laughter. Let's get together for lunch at Ruby's Mexican Restaurant #3 (3502 S Broadway Ave) on Sunday, April 27, at 12:00 p.m.

It's a little Dutch treat get together that we hope will bring a little joy into your week.



MEMORIALS as of March 18

ETERNAL FLAME

In memory of Vleta Kate Hardy
Don Garrison

In memory of Vergil Rodgers
Annette & Jon Campbell
Beverly Smiley Jones
David Jones
Deanna Olson

In memory of Howard Schloss
Unity Class

In memory of Ted Swenson
Deanna Olson

In memory of Alan Tomme
Deanna Olson

MISSIONS

In memory of Kip Camp
Dawn & Marc Camp
Roxye & Gerald Spencer

In memory of Vergil Rodgers
Dona & Keith Halbert

In honor of Dr. Jay Riley
Cyndee & Jim Davies

MUSIC

In memory of Bob Wilhelm
Ila Stamper

In honor of Jacque & Glen Schackelford
Anne & Garth Pattullo

STAFF HIGHLIGHT

Sheila Charles

Throughout the week, her face is more than likely the first one you see when you visit the church, and her voice is more than likely the first one you hear when you call the church office. For the last four years, Sheila Charles has joyously and faithfully served as the Welcome Center Coordinator for the church.

Prior to coming to Marvin, Sheila worked for nine years at Mercy Ships. After her position at Mercy Ships was dissolved, Sheila had a desire to work at the sheriff's department, but God had others plans in store. "God chose Marvin for me! I am so thankful that I agreed with His plan because I love the ministry of Marvin!"

A typical day for Sheila involves a variety of tasks, but almost every task involves interacting with people, which is the absolute highlight of her day.

Not many people know this about Sheila, but outside of work, she is involved in outreach ministry and is a worship leader. She is an avid reader, and enjoys spending time with her daughter Amari, walks in the park, and writing goals for the coming week, month, and year.

Sheila is honored to be a part of the ministry at Marvin, and we are grateful that God led her to Marvin.



Marvin Concert Series

Join us for a Good Friday concert, *Requiem* by Luigi Cherubini. Richard Lee of the East Texas Symphony Orchestra will be our guest conductor. Friday, April 18 at 7 p.m. in the Sanctuary



Join us for Consonari, 5 p.m. Sunday, May 18. Featuring Kaden Larson, piano and Anna Larson, violin



Financial update through December

	Jan. budget	Jan. actual	YTD budget	YTD actual
Gifts received/other income	\$ 341,000	\$ 438,190	\$ 682,000	\$ 789,307
Expenditures	\$ 435,157	\$ 368,690	\$ 832,619	\$ 735,720
Excess/(shortage)	\$ (94,157)	\$ 69,500	\$ (150,619)	\$ 53,587

Attendance

March 2.....	871
March 9.....	1,661
March 16.....	808

Marvin Church
300 W. Erwin Street
Tyler, TX 75702



903.592.7396



Facebook.com/
Marvin.Methodist



info@marvin.church



Marvin.church



Legacy Giving and Luncheon

Sunday, April 6 promises to be a very special day for Marvin Church! We plan to highlight the Marvin Methodist Church Foundation as well as Legacy Giving during all four worship services, and we will announce a significant bequest to the Foundation that is planned by a Marvin family.

We will host a luncheon, with a complimentary lunch provided, in Pirtle Hall immediately following the conclusion of the 11 o'clock church services. Please register your attendance by visiting the event Marvin's website or by scanning the QR code.

Dr. Pat Day will be our guest speaker at this special event. Tab Beall, Chairperson of the Foundation Board, and Mary Ann Cozby, Chair of Marvin's Stewardship Committee, will speak briefly on the MMC Foundation and Legacy Giving.

Please come for food, flowers, and fascinating facts! Remember to register to join us for a complimentary lunch by visiting the event page on the Marvin website or by scanning the QR code.

LEGACY GIVING LUNCHEON

NOON, SUNDAY, APRIL 6
PIRTLE HALL



*Scan the code to
R.S.V.P. for luncheon*

Spotlight On Marvin Methodist Church Foundation

Beginnings

After the passing of her husband (Ben Sutton), Mrs. Elizabeth Sutton wanted to memorialize him in a meaningful way that would benefit others. Elizabeth Sutton described her husband as having been a great ambassador for Christianity and a great witness whose heart was with his local church. Thus, Mrs. Sutton encouraged Marvin Church leadership to establish the Marvin Methodist Church Foundation. She gave a very generous initial gift as seed money to fund the Foundation.

In January of 2017, the Marvin Charge Conference voted to establish the Marvin Methodist Church Foundation (MMC Foundation or the Foundation), and the Foundation Board met for the first time on February 7, 2017.



MARVIN
METHODIST CHURCH
FOUNDATION

A Lasting Legacy

Gifts to the Marvin Foundation are separate from gifts to the church's Operating Budget which support pastoral and staff salaries, missions, and building maintenance among other things. Gifts to the

Foundation are allowed to grow over time, with only conservative, annual distributions being used to meet church needs that fall outside the regular operating budget.

Gifts to the Foundation may be made in any amount at any time. Rick Jett, the church's Executive Director of

Business Operations, may be reached at 903-592-7396 and would be pleased to answer any questions you may have.

The Foundation Board has been entrusted with stewarding resources through gifts to the Foundation that are held in trust to continue Marvin's mission and vision now and for future generations.

Confirmation Class of 2025

Confirmation has been such a unifying time for our student ministry and church as a whole. In March, we had 44 students get confirmed. These students went through an 8-week process in which they learned essential Christian doctrine and beliefs, Methodist distinctives, the heritage of the Methodist Church, the life of John Wesley, and how the Bible was formed. During these 8 weeks, students were guided by their prayer partners. Each student was assigned a prayer partner to nurture them in their faith and encourage them in their Confirmation process. We are so thankful that Marvin has such devoted followers of Christ who wish to raise up the next generation of leaders in our churches and our world. We are immensely grateful for Marvin Methodist Church! Come, Holy Spirit.





MARVIN
Methodist Church

300 W. Erwin Street | Tyler, TX 75702

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U.S. Postage

PAID

Permit No. 568
Tyler, TX

ADULTS

Marvin Ventures' April Trip to the Rose Gardens

Come join the Ventures for our next fun outing on Thursday, April 24.

This month, we are going to the Tyler Rose Museum which houses history and memorabilia featuring fabulous costumes and items acquired since the first Tyler Rose Festival in 1933.

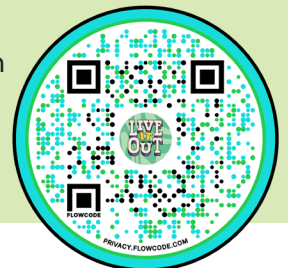


We will also have an opportunity to walk through the 14-acre Tyler Rose Garden where you can immerse yourself in a world of vibrant blooms, fragrant petals, and tranquil pathways. Explore the diverse rose collections, showcasing over 38,000 rose bushes representing

KIDS

Summer will be here before we know it!
That means all things VBS! If you've helped before or always

wanted to, save your spot with the QR code below! Registration is open for all volunteers and Marvin kids and opens to the public on Easter Sunday.



approximately 600 cultivars. From classic hybrid teas to vibrant floribundas, each variety adds its unique charm.

Stroll through meticulously designed formal gardens, featuring geometric patterns, fountains, and well-manicured hedges.

Afterwards, we will enjoy a delicious meal at The Grove Tyler.

Email Pastor Gerry Giles at ggiles@marvin.church by April 21 to reserve your spot at the table.