

*A Publication Of Marvin Church • September 2025*



# MarvinLife

Inside:  
Celebrating the  
arrival of Fall!



Hebrews 10:24-25 states “Let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another – all the more as you see the Day approaching.” I love that this passage encourages followers of Jesus Christ to be dedicated to the faith community, allowing our relationships with others in the Body to offer encouragement and motivation to love and serve others in Jesus’ name. Salvation is a communal experience. The fact that we are adopted into the family of God (Ephesians 1:5) and are recipients of the great love of the Father who has bestowed His love on us and called us His children (1 John 3:1) is a great truth to celebrate. Knowing that fellow believers join the Holy Trinity in being “for you” and your spiritual growth is an additional blessing.

Joseph Hellerman, in his book *When the Church Was a Family*, says “Long term interpersonal relationships are the crucible of genuine progress in the Christian life. People who stay [in the church] also grow. People who leave [the church] do not grow.” We need each other if we are going to continue to grow in faith, and I am so pleased that Marvin Church has established for its members the “Discipleship Pathway” with intentional programming and people along the way to help us grow.

In his work *The Hidden Life of Trees*, German forester Peter Wohlleben writes about the interconnectedness of trees in a forest. Coming upon a stump in the woods that was still producing chlorophyll, Wohlleben discovered something beautiful – neighboring trees were supporting the stump through a fungi “network” underneath the forest floor. That’s right! The individual trees in the forest were sharing resources to keep the stump alive. Further study revealed that trees also communicate with one another when a foreign invader like a beetle arrives and begins to do damage. Trees send signals that an enemy has come, and other trees respond with the production of immune defenses. Fascinating! Though trees stand alone, at least those in a forest are part of a supportive connected life.

If God made trees to live with connectedness, certainly those made in the Creator’s image also share this trait. In a world that can so easily isolate us, keeping us focused on our phones, our television screens, and the many projects that we need to accomplish, the church offers us Christ-centered community to encourage us when we are “frazzled” and share with us the immune defenses of worship and other spiritual practices.

As we begin our Mid-week classes this fall, I am excited that the church’s discipleship pathway has many classes to both connect you with others and help you cultivate a closer union with God. On Wednesdays at 5:00 p.m., the church family gathers to share a wonderful meal and fellowship around table before heading to our 6:00 classes. Informal conversation in this setting can often bring great blessings! In a conversation with friend a few years ago, I was asked whether I had read John Eldredge’s book *Get Your Life Back*. Hearing how it had blessed her life, I quickly picked it up and began to read it. That is where I learned about *The Hidden Life of Trees*. Soon after completing the book, my covenant group began to use it for a book study and the encouragement by author John Eldredge spread to my friends like a network underneath a forest floor. Encouragement comes in many ways, but it is most often connected with people.

As we begin our new fall semester, I want to personally invite you to build intentional community into your life. Gina and I will begin a new training class for Life to Life on Wednesday nights with the hope of equipping another large group of our congregation to be engaged with another person in spiritual conversations for the purpose of discipleship. Each person who takes the class will begin with a partner to learn how to use the curriculum and begin a Christ-centered friendship immediately. After the four training sessions, participants will continue going through the lessons together with a mid-way check-in and a celebration meal at the end. By the end of the fall, new Christian friendships will be forged, and participants will be ready to either disciple another individual or explore being in a band or class meeting. Whatever the “next step,” the Christ-centered friendship will undoubtedly have brought a blessing.

Sharing the journey with you,

  
Doug



Dr. Doug Baker



## Life to Life Celebration Dinner

On Wednesday, July 30, the church hosted a celebration of the Life to Life Ministry with those who have recently completed the discipleship program. Testimonies were shared and the growth experienced by participants was celebrated. The next class begins on September 3. Why not invite a friend to join the next class with you?

## ADULTS



## Ventures September

The Marvin Ventures will take on the Texas State Fair on Sept. 30! We will depart from the church to head to the nearest Dart Rail Station so that we can be transported to the fair front gates. The cost is \$50 to cover gas, Dart ticket, fair ticket and \$20 worth of food tickets. You can sign up and pay online, or email Rev. Gerry Giles (ggiles@marvin.church) or Kenley Moore (kmoore@marvin.church) to reserve your seat.

## Ventures overnight experience

Mark your calendar and join the Ventures in a great overnight adventure including a Saturday matinee performance of the 2026 addition of the Fort Worth Stock Show Rodeo coming Jan. 16 – Feb. 7, 2026.

**Tickets go on sale Sept. 8.** We will be purchasing a limited number of tickets, so now is the time to reach out and confirm your desire to rodeo up and then start polishing your boots and creasing your hats.

We will stay overnight in a nice hotel and visit the Bureau of Engraving and Printing’s Western Currency Facility and dine at the world-famous Joe T. Garcia’s in the Fort Worth Stock Yards. Please stay tuned for updates.





## Tenth Annual Eternal Flame Fund Dinner a Success Thanks to You!

Thanks to our amazing friends, donors, volunteers and Marvin staff members, the Tenth Annual Eternal Flame Fund Dinner was a resounding success! We are extremely grateful for your generous gifts to the Eternal Flame Fund which supports the care and maintenance of the Marvin campus.

Held on Thursday, Aug. 21, the dinner event featured an inspirational talk by our very own Dr. John Wayne McMann who graciously agreed to be here in Tyler on his birthday. Dr. McMann now serves as Lead Pastor at First Methodist Conroe but previously served as Lead Pastor of Core Worship at Marvin.

Guests enjoyed a delicious dinner with steaks prepared by Kenny Cotten and were treated to beautiful music performed by Kara and Jonathan Story. Mary Ann Cozby, Stewardship Committee Chair, presented a visual history of projects made possible by the Eternal Flame Fund during the last decade. The Church Properties Chair, Kevin Ferrier, and the Executive Director of Business Operations, Rick Jett, provided updates on church maintenance projects, as well as the 2024-25 maintenance and repair funds.

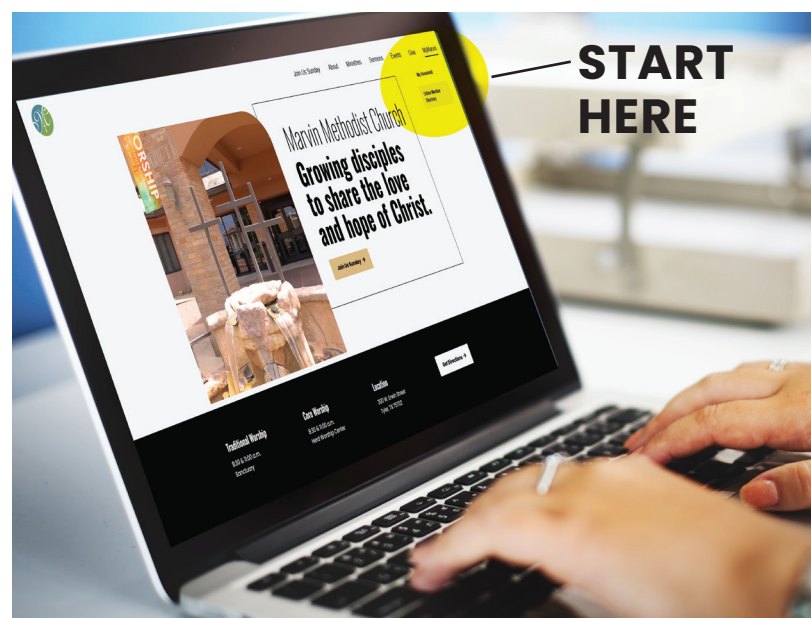
Throughout the year, gifts of any amount may be given to the Eternal Flame Fund. Donations may be made online or by mailing a check with "Eternal Flame Fund" noted in the memo.



### What is the Eternal Flame Fund?

The Eternal Flame Fund is supported by gifts from the congregation for projects at Marvin Church not covered by the annual operating budget. This fund is supported in part by the annual Eternal Flame Fund Dinner. Gifts to the Eternal Flame Fund may be made at any point during the year and may be made in honor or memory of loved ones or friends. One hundred percent of your Eternal Flame Fund gift is restricted for the care and maintenance of the church and campus, and these projects are determined by the Church Properties Committee.

## Online Marvin Member Directory Debuts



We are excited to introduce a new Online Member Directory that is available on our website. Only active members will have to access and appear in the Online Member Directory. Access to the Online Member Directory will require logging in to our website. The starting point for your profile in the Online Member Directory is your name and your photo. You are responsible to login, update your household information, as well as your Online Member Directory settings and preferences. If you have not received information about the Online Member Directory via Marvin Messenger or from 90382, please email [info@marvin.church](mailto:info@marvin.church) to request a copy of the instructions to login to our website, update your household information and access the Online Member Directory.

## Moms of Marvin

Moms of Marvin is a community of mothers of children ages birth to kindergarten. Together we bond over the joys and difficulties of early motherhood, while enjoying childcare, breakfast, devotionals, mentorship, and guest speakers. We meet on the second and fourth Thursdays of the month from 10 a.m.- noon. The first meeting is Sept. 11 and registration is open. There is a \$25 annual registration fee.

Moms of Marvin at Night is a space for intentional community for moms with littles. We meet on the second and fourth Thursdays of the month at 6 p.m. Together we encourage and experience the transforming power of God's presence. We hope to see you at our first meeting on Sept. 11 and we encourage you to bring a friend!



## Women's Bible Studies



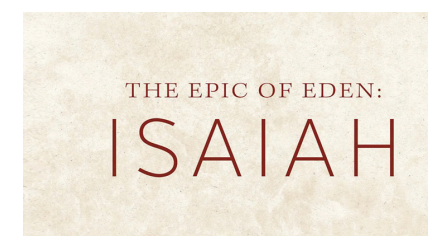
Discover the beauty and purpose of living a hidden life in Christ. In this study, you'll explore the stories of lesser-known biblical figures—like the Sons of Korah, Cleopas, Huldah, the Daughters of Shallum, Pilate's Wife, and Gideon—and reflect on how their experiences speak to your own journey. This class will allow for thoughtful exploration of identity, purpose, and delight in God's presence. Registration is open and class begins on Wednesday, Sept. 3, at 6 p.m.

*Facilitated by Brandy Stevens*





This study delves into the context of the book of Isaiah, explores Israel's religion and economy, and examines the role of prophets. Develop an understanding of how Isaiah's message is relevant to our lives today. Optional \$20 for a paper study guide. Also available through Kindle. Class begins on Tuesday, Sept. 2, at 10 a.m.

*Facilitated by Carolyn Hutson and Brandy Stevens*

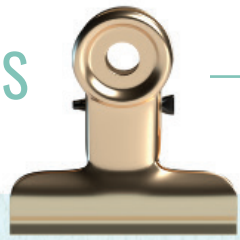


As parents, we long to raise children who know God, love Him, and reflect His love to the world. This study explores how the fruit of the Spirit—love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control—can take root in your home. Discover how to model Spirit-led living, nurture spiritual growth in your children, and live out these virtues together as a family. \$15 for study materials. Class begins on Tuesday, Sept. 23, at 10 a.m.

*Facilitated by Karen Norton*

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

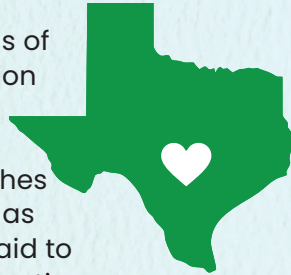




Marvin Family,

Thank you for your continued support and prayers for Texas Hill Country. We know the recovery and rebuilding will be an ongoing event for months to come. To date, we have three areas of progress to report on. Our congregation has blessed the Trinity conference with three large monetary donations that will be funneled directly to churches and agencies in the area to be used as needed for recovery, rebuilding, and aid to those in need. In addition to those donations, we packed one hundred flood buckets at serve night and they are ready to go to the warehouse to replenish supplies for the conference. And lastly, the plan for volunteer groups to help with some aspects of rebuilding and repair are still being discussed. Our plan is to partner with a GMC church in one of the affected areas along the path of destruction. We know these churches have needs within their own congregations to help with rebuilding and repair and our hope is to be able to have a longer-term commitment and relationship with our partner churches and neighbors in need instead of a one-off visit. (Much like we did for our friends in Orange, Texas a few years back.) As these plans become more solid, we will keep you updated on how you can serve! If you desire to help in the coming months, please leave your contact information with the missions department.

Together working in HIS service,  
Shannon



## Fruits of Labor spotted!



The Sewing Brigade's Mission Week 2025 Princess Dresses have arrived in Tanzania! Under the mentorship of Rev. Alfred Njau at Amazing Grace, we support Pastor Robert in his ministry to those in the area new to Christianity. What a blessing to a family near Pastor Robert's church in Bwiti. Thank you Matthew Nocas for delivering the dresses!

## Want to Serve?

Help serve hot dogs and snow cones at the Bonner Back to School Block Party celebrating the schools earning an A rating with the Texas Education Agency!



Friday September 19 from 5-7 p.m. at Bonner Elementary! Contact Kenley to sign up!



## Bonner Elementary

Shout out to Bonner Elementary for earning the coveted A rating for schools in the district as rated by the Texas Education Agency! This means the school has demonstrated high levels of academic achievement, student progress, and success in closing the learning gap! This rating reflects the hard work of the students, the dedication of the staff and families, and the participation of volunteers! Bonner is the first Northside school to receive this honor! We are super proud of our Bonner Bees!

If you would like to volunteer at Bonner, please contact Kenley in the Missions office to get more info on how you can become part of the gold star team!



# Missions EXPO

Sunday, Oct. 5, 2025  
9 a.m.-12:30 p.m.  
PIRTLE HALL

Visit 40 + booths highlighting the many local and international partner agencies Marvin Methodist Church supports and serves alongside. Talk to leaders from the agencies about what they do, who they serve, and how you can plug in. There will be snacks and door prizes all morning.

## Save the Date

### Annual Veteran's Day Luncheon

Tuesday, Nov. 11, 11:30 a.m.,  
Pirtle Hall

*Invitations coming soon!*



### Military Care Packing Party

*Holiday Edition*

Monday, Nov. 17, 6 p.m.,  
Pirtle Hall

As part of our November Serve Night, we will be packing military care packages. Please submit names of those you know who are actively serving so we can send a box of holiday love!

### Christmas Joy

Dec. 3 and 4

It is not too early to bring those new, unwrapped toys!



**Habits of the Heart:** Supporting St. Paul Children's Services Food Pantry. Specific items needed are canned chicken, rice, canned black or pinto beans or Cheerios of any flavor



### Serve Night Monday, Sept. 15, 6 p.m.

We will be assembling emergency hygiene kits for use by multiple partner agencies and ministries.



**Sweets for the Soul**  
Monday, Sept. 8  
Hospice of East Texas



# STAFF HIGHLIGHT

## Juanita Zuniga



Very few people know this, but Juanita Zuniga, Associate Director of Food Services, originally came to work at Marvin for just one day to fill in for a friend, but by God’s will she has been working here for 33 years. It was never something she planned, but has become a big part of her life.

When asked about a typical day at Marvin, Juanita said that she gets up each morning, always thanks God for one more day, and goes to work taking care of whatever tasks need to be done. Juanita’s favorite thing about working at Marvin is cooking, especially when people enjoy the food that she has cooked. “It makes me feel proud when people enjoy the food I have cooked and motivates me to keep doing my best every day,” she said.

Family is very important to Juanita and she feels truly blessed to have the family that she has. She has been married for 47 years and has three daughters and two sons, along with 12 grandchildren, five step-grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren.

Outside of work, the things that bring Juanita the most joy and allow her to relax are going to church on Sundays, watching movies with her family, spending time with her grandkids, taking care of her plants, and cooking for her family.

### MEMORIALS

as of Aug. 5

**ETERNAL FLAME**

**In memory of Beverly Bicker**  
Don Garrison

**In memory of Mary Brumby**  
Mary & Ron Gammell  
Deanna Olson

**In memory of Diane Carnes**  
Mary & Ron Gammell

**In memory of Dr. Mike Dent**  
Marilyn & John Hardy  
Jan & Jim Knowles  
Betty Ann & Don Smith

**In memory of Rhett Rippy**  
Marilyn & John Hardy  
Kay & George Rook  
Betty Ann & Don Smith  
Margaret & Tom Stewart

**In memory of Joe Tinch**  
Bonnie Tinch

**In memory of Serena & Ron Vrnak**  
Mary & Ron Gammell

**In memory of Holly Wilhelm**  
Vicki & Rob Neal

**In memory of Holly & Bob Wilhelm**  
Deanna Olson

**In memory of Patsy Williams**  
Paula & John Perkins  
Kay & George Rook

**KIDS**

**In memory of Rhett Rippy**  
Deanna Olson  
Penny Stephens

**MARVIN CONCERT SERIES**

**In honor of Marilyn & John Hardy**  
Marcia & Jim Miles

**MISSIONS**

**In memory of Brenda Gober**  
Jerry Gober

**In memory of Kenneth D. Hardesty**  
Richard York

Financial update through July					Attendance
	July budget	July actual	YTD budget	YTD actual	
Gifts received/other income	\$ 341,000	\$ 513,036	\$ 2,387,000	\$ 2,593,066	July 6..... 1,236
Expenditures	\$ 409,776	\$ 439,316	\$ 3,020,179	\$ 2,847,598	July 13.....847
Excess/(shortage)	\$ (68,776)	\$ (73,720)	\$ (633,179)	\$ (254,532)	July 20 .....832
					July 27..... 747

# Voices of Tyler

## HYMN FESTIVAL

### October 5

5 p.m., Sanctuary

Pepper Choplin  
Guest Conductor

## Incredible Summer for the Student Ministry!

The students walked through the Scriptures on forming healthy relationships and understanding that their identity in Christ is who they truly are – not accolades, not athletic ability, nor accomplishments, or even their academics tell the truth of who they are; that can only be found in Jesus. He is the one who never can and never will fail us.

The Students Ministry wants to deeply thank Mill Walters for his hard work this summer as the student intern. He was an immense help to Jonathan and had a genuine servant heart for the students. He will be missed as he begins his junior year at Wheaton College.

As we say good-bye to one intern, we say hello to another. We are excited to celebrate that we have hired a new intern, Annie Beathard, for the fall! Annie served as a group leader at DNow this summer and is already known by a portion of the students. She will be focusing on ministering to our middle school girls and assisting Jonathan in the office with administrative duties. We are excited to have her!



## Looking forward to Fall

We had a great summer and look forward to the fall in the Marvin Kids Ministry. The fall brings many new starts to life: a new school year, a new preschool, new friends, new events, new backpacks and school supplies. The excitement of the new keeps us looking for God! As we celebrate what God has already done and look forward to what he still is doing, we are thankful for many things, but especially our volunteers. We have an exceptional team that loves our kids well—class parents, Sunday school teachers, birthday card writers, prayer team members, VBS and summer helpers, and our Children’s Ministry Team. For all of these, we are so very thankful! A special hooray for the team that keeps things running—the Children’s Ministry Team!

Nicole Robbins, chair, Stacy Cotten, Jennifer Monk, Weldon Davis, Katie Robison, Cristian Hooper, Clint Phillips, Melissa Ellery, Alyssa Ulrich, and Jenna Beason



## Brick Street Block Party is Back!

Save the date for October 19 from 5 to 7 for the 2nd annual Brick Street Block Party. This year we are partnering with First Baptist Church and Christ Church to host 2,000+ kids and families in our community. We need lots of helpers and information for sign-ups and details will be on the church website. Candy collection begins Sunday, Sept. 28, so get ready to pie your favorite staff member at the event!



**Stay tuned for what’s to come this fall:**

**Sept. 7:** Kinder Tour, 9:45 a.m. Sanctuary; EDGE, 5–7 p.m.

**Sept. 14:** Littles, Lessons, & Lattes for 2’s, 10 a.m.; 3rd Grade Bible Presentation, 11 a.m. worship services

# BRICK STREET Block Party

## October 19

Marvin and surrounding churches will host  
a fall carnival for the community of Tyler.

**5–7 p.m. | FREE EVENT!**





**MARVIN**  
Methodist Church

300 W. Erwin Street | Tyler, TX 75702

Non-Profit  
U.S. Postage

**PAID**

Permit No. 568  
Tyler, TX

**Welcome to  
Marvin**



Roger and Cindy Gafford



Alice Wilson