

A Publication Of Marvin Church • November 2025



MarvinLife

Inside:
More Brick Street
Block Party pics!



marvin.church

**Fanning the Flame of Discipleship:
Marvin Staff with Ascending Leaders**

At Marvin Methodist Church, discipleship is not just one ministry among many—it is the heart of everything we do. To help strengthen and deepen this culture, our entire staff recently participated in a **Discipleship Workshop** with *Ascending Leaders*, a ministry devoted to equipping churches to live out the Great Commission.

Why This Workshop?

Marvin has been intentionally shaping a Discipleship Pathway that helps every person move forward in their walk with Christ—from *Exploring Christ* to *Christ-Centered* living. For new staff, this workshop served as an introduction to the language and vision we share. For long-tenured staff, it was a much-needed refresher that reminded us of the “why” behind our ministries.

As one staff member reflected afterward:

“It’s easy to get caught up in tasks. This time with *Ascending Leaders* pulled me back to the bigger picture—helping people encounter Jesus and take their next step with Him.”

Setting the Culture

The workshop reinforced what we are striving to embed in every program and relationship: a clear, consistent pathway of discipleship. “Instead of simply asking, ‘What do we offer?’ the more important question becomes, ‘How does this help someone take their next step with Christ?’”

The pathway reminds us:

- In the **Exploring Christ** stage, we invite people to *come and see* Jesus through worship, friendship, and safe spaces to ask questions.
- In **Growing in Christ**, we encourage practices like Life-to-Life mentoring and small groups called Class Meetings where transformation is experienced in the context of relationship.
- As people become **Close to Christ**, the journey becomes deeply personal—prioritizing being with God and doing for God, sharing stories, and serving in ways that stretch faith. Deeper spiritual disciplines and micro groups called Band Meetings are outlets for pursuing Christlikeness in community.
- The goal is to live **Christ-Centered** lives—fully surrendered, sacrificial, and abiding in Jesus, bearing fruit for His kingdom.

**Mission
Accomplished**

The day with *Ascending Leaders* gave our staff new energy, clarity, and focus. It was more than professional development—it was spiritual renewal.

One pastor summarized it well:

“We don’t want to just run good programs—that merely makes people’s lives busier. We want to form disciples who look like Jesus. This workshop fanned that flame amongst our team.”

Moving Forward

With one heart and one vision, our staff is committed to keeping discipleship at the center of Marvin’s life. Whether through worship, small groups, mission, or fellowship, everything points toward helping people grow in Christ.

Our prayer is simple: that the culture we are shaping together will ripple outward—touching lives, transforming families, and blessing our city—so that all might know the abundant life found in Jesus.

Come, Holy Spirit!

Marc

Pastor Marc



Dr. Marc Donaldson

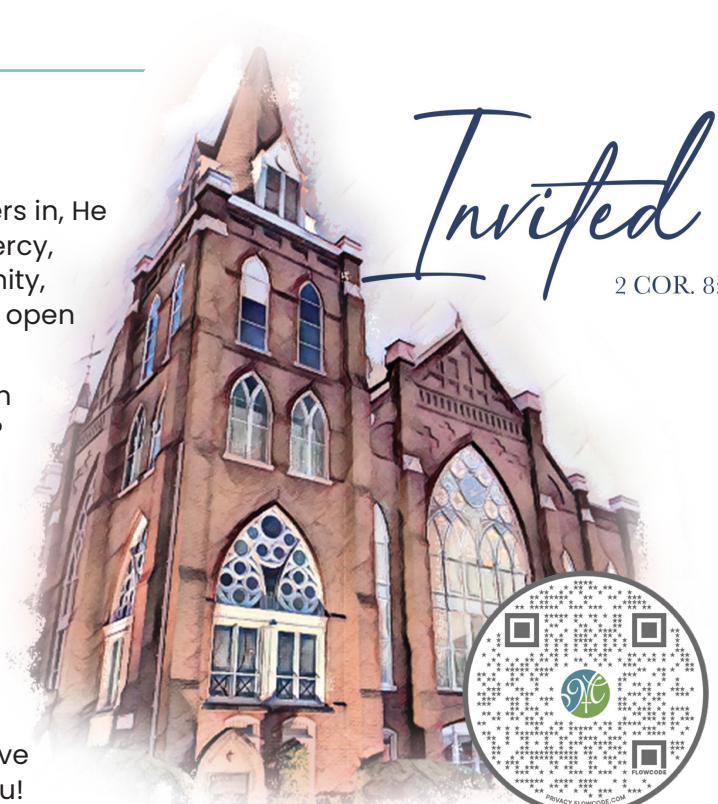


You are invited.

Jesus knew the importance of an invitation. By inviting others in, He demonstrated that no one is beyond the reach of God’s mercy, and modeled how we, too, are to invite others into community, faith, and hope. His life showed that a simple invitation can open the door to eternal change.

How has God’s invitation to a personal relationship with Him shaped your life and the way you steward over His Church? During this season of Generosity, we reflect on the many ways Jesus invites us into His community—calling us not only to belong, but to actively participate. He asks us to offer our time, talents, and resources in service of building His Kingdom, reminding us that generosity is both a response to His love and a reflection of His grace.

We invite you to be a part of God’s calling and R.S.V.P. YES through the completion of a 2026 Covenant Card or use the QR code to make your pledge on Marvin’s website. If you have already submitted your Covenant Card, many thanks to you!



**Marvin Ventures:
A Visit To Historic
Downtown McKinney**



Thursday, November 13, 2025

Come join us on a trip back in time as the Ventures travel to historic downtown McKinney.

McKinney is home to one of the oldest and most active, thriving historic downtowns in Texas. The downtown commercial district offers more than 120 unique small businesses and more than two dozen locally-owned-and-operated restaurants that offer some of the best dining in North Texas.

In order to allow us time for travel, we will leave the Church Thursday morning at 7:45 a.m.

We begin our journey with a tour of Heritage Village at Chestnut Square at 11:00 a.m.

Afterwards, you are free to roam around the historic downtown shopping area – eating lunch at your choice of multiple restaurants.

We will gather back together at 3:00 p.m. to depart back to the church.

Cost – \$20 per person – for ticket admission and bus fuel (lunch is on your own). Sign up on the website.

Pumpkin Rolls are Back!

Moms of Marvin will be selling pumpkin rolls for \$20 each on Sunday, Nov. 23, during church hours. You may pre-order pumpkin rolls by scanning the QR code and completing the pre-order form by Nov. 5. Payment and pick up will be on the date of the bake sale. Payment may be made by cash or check payable to Marvin Methodist Church.

Moms of Marvin at Night



Mom's of Marvin at Night will not meet in November or December. Stay tuned for 2026 meeting announcements. See you next year!



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




Pumpkin Roll Pre-Orders

Pumpkin Roll Fundraiser!

100% of proceeds support Moms of Marvin

\$20.00 per roll – secure yours today!

Pre-order by November 5th

Pick-up: Sunday, November 23rd

Susanna Wesley Circle

We will gather at Marvin Methodist Church in the Garden Room on Monday, Nov. 17, at 10 a.m. Laurie Tuttle – preacher, teacher, Marvin Choir member, and Chaplin at Billy Moore Correctional Center in Overton, will be speaking on discernment. All women are welcome, and we encourage you to bring a friend.

Amazing Grace Circle

We will gather on Tuesday, November 18th, at 5:15 p.m. at the East Texas Food Bank (3201 Robertson Road, Tyler, TX 75701). This project is open to the church. Families are invited to participate together; children must be attended and old enough to help. It's a very special evening where we truly are His Hand and Feet reaching Tyler and surrounding communities. It's not hard work!

REQUIREMENT: Wear closed toe shoes and bring a jacket in case the warehouse is cold.

Call or text Brandy Stevens with questions at 903.405.4762 or email bstevens@marvin.church.

Save the Date



You are invited to celebrate

Baby's First Christmas

Dec. 7, 2025
9–10:30 a.m.
Garden Room
Marvin Methodist Church

Take a family photo
Keepsake book for each baby



COME HELP US MAKE A JOYFUL NOISE UNTO THE LORD

Christmas Luncheon

HONORING THE WIDOWS WHO ARE A BLESSING TO MARVIN METHODIST CHURCH

DECEMBER 7 at 12:15 p.m.
IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING WORSHIP SERVICES IN PIRTLE HALL

R.S.V.P. by Nov. 21 to Brandy Stevens
at 903.405.4762 or bstevens@marvin.church.



Breathe

WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

Friday, Feb. 6 & Saturday, Feb. 7
Guest Speaker Allison Allen
Registration \$50 (Opens Dec. 1)

Marvin's Safety Team

The Safety Team is here to serve all members and guests. They are identified by their orange badges that say "Safety Team". Should you (or anyone else) need medical assistance, look around for someone wearing that badge. If you see something or someone acting in a suspicious manner, please let a safety team member know. Our team is well trained in assisting in both situations. There are always local law enforcement officers in every service who are there to assist as well.

We are always looking for church members that would be interested in joining the Safety Team. If you have any interest, please reach out to Carl Watson (cwatson@marvin.church).

The Safety Team is here to serve and protect all members and guests!

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. You can also order online at the website. The deadline to order is Friday, Dec. 7.

Cost is \$20 each

(add a \$1 processing fee per item for online orders).



Christmas Joy

Wednesday, Dec. 3 & Thursday, Dec. 4

Santa’s Secret Workshop started more than 20 years ago as a joint mission project between Marvin and St. Paul churches to serve underprivileged families within our communities. Over the years the event has developed into what we now call Christmas Joy.

Each year, 100 families are prayerfully screened and selected by staff from Bonner Elementary, Marvin Church, St. Paul Children’s Services and Bethesda Pediatrics. Each referral is recognized as a family with needs or hardships and are not already participating in other gifting programs. Parents are invited to come “shopping” for each of their children. Each child receives three gifts, a stocking filled with goodies, and a stuffed animal. The family receives a gift and spiritual encouragement. There is no cost to the families to take part in Christmas Joy.

This program is made possible through your generosity! Thank you, Marvin Methodist Church!

Methodist Children’s Home Foster Kid’s Party

Saturday Dec. 6, 10 a.m., Pirtle Hall

A long-standing Christmas tradition at Marvin is hosting the annual Methodist Children’s Home Foster Kid’s Christmas Party. Sign up to sponsor a child or help host the party. The Wish Lists for each child will be available for pickup on Sunday, Nov. 2 at the table by the Welcome Center or call the Marvin Missions office for more details.

Hwy 80 Rescue Mission Christmas Card Parties

Tuesday, Dec 9, 9 a.m. and noon

Each year Marvin offers this fun opportunity for our volunteers to serve in our local shelters by providing games with prizes, food, and fellowship with the clients. We also provide Christmas cards and stamps for those who would like to send a holiday card to family or friends. We have found this to be an extremely well received act of love that helps people begin to repair broken relationships.



How Can You Help?

Bring new, unwrapped toys valued at \$15–20 each to Marvin by Dec. 2. You can also donate money and we will shop for you.

Sign up to volunteer to serve. Registration opens Nov. 2 online or in person at the table by the Welcome Center. Volunteers are needed to decorate, register, shop, stock, wrap, pray, translate, bake, and take down.

For more information, contact the Marvin Missions office.



Habits of the Heart: November
Benefiting Christmas Joy. Bring new unwrapped toys for children aged newborn to 17 years. Toy selections should be valued at \$15–20 each.



Serve Night Monday, Nov. 17, 6 p.m.
We will have two projects at one time! We will be stuffing stockings for Christmas Joy recipients as well as assembling 36 holiday care packages for troops serving our country.



Sweets for the Soul Nov. 10
Make baked goodies for Hospice of East Texas. For info, contact Kenley at kmoore@marvin.church

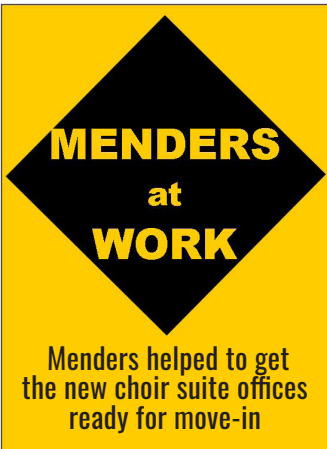


Missions EXPO

Thank you to all who supported our Missions EXPO!
We serve an awesome community of partners!



Bonner Block Party celebrating their A+ Rating with the TEA



\$

CORE Dollar Club and NOAH Fund

\$

Thank you for supporting our benevolence funds! Among others we assisted this month, we were blessed to assist a disabled veteran who needed help moving. With your support we were able to help him move from his apartment to another complex that better accommodated his changing needs. Thank you, Marvin church, for making a difference in his life.

\$

\$

STAFF HIGHLIGHT

Zach Behrend



There are many things people enjoy about working at Marvin Methodist Church, but for Zach Behrend, the peace he finds at Marvin is what he enjoys the most. For almost one year, Zach has been on the facilities and maintenance team at Marvin and he can be found doing anything from sweeping to mopping to lifting heavy things for staff and church members.

Zach is the son of Marvin members, Scott and Cyndi Behrend, and the younger brother of Britton and older brother of Eliot.

Outside of work, Zach loves being at the gym and finding opportunities to put on his best outfits. Not many people know this about Zach, but he powerlifts for fun and can sketch environmental landscapes.

MEMORIALS as of Sept. 30

ETERNAL FLAME
In honor of Rick Jett
In honor of Robyn Thomason
Barbara & Billy Bass
In honor of Kathy Story
Margaret Adams
In honor of Stacey Hirt Phillips
Michael Modlin
In honor of Mary Lynn Powell
Tricia & Steve Wiggs
In honor of Kara & Aria Story
Monica Woods
In memory of Vita Beal
In memory of Bill Byerly
In memory of Andy Wall
Sandy Byerly
In memory of Yvonne Dupuy
Charlotte Wilson

In memory of Ben Gann
In memory of Mason Gann
Genelle Gann
In memory of Loretta & Charles Holbrook
Linda Armstrong
In memory of William Michael Lott
In memory of Mike Murphy
Carol & Jerry Hopkins
In memory of Andy Wall
Mary Ann Eckert

KIDS
In honor of Asher Scott
In honor of Aria Story
Sandy Byerly
In memory of Rhett Rippy
Sandy Byerly
Kathy & Ben Kizer

MARVIN CONCERT SERIES
In honor of Kara & Jonathan Story
Edie Bergeron
Susan & Jim Gerhard
In memory of Patsy & Calvin Clyde, Jr.
Venona & Thomas Clyde
In memory of Jeanette Jarrell
Donna & Gene Bennett

MARVIN METHODIST FOUNDATION
In memory of Yvonne Dupuy
Sandy Byerly

MISSIONS
In honor of Lori & Eric Smith
In memory of Billie & Quintan Chamness
Sandy Byerly

In memory of Dr. Mike Dent
Tom Gregory

MUSIC
In honor of Ken Horne
In memory of Ovada Horne
In memory of Jeanette Jarrell
Sandy Byerly

STUDENTS
In memory of Diane Carnes
Sandy Byerly

WOMEN
In memory of Yvonne Dupuy
Troyce Raynes

Financial update through September					Attendance	
	Sept. budget	Sept. actual	YTD budget	YTD actual		
Gifts received/other income	\$ 341,000	\$ 254,972	\$ 3,069,000	\$ 3,233,679	Sept. 7.....	815
Expenditures	\$ 398,418	\$ 337,669	\$ 3,799,389	\$ 3,509,224	Sept. 14.....	931
Excess/(shortage)	\$ (57,418)	\$ (82,697)	\$ (730,389)	\$ (275,545)	Sept. 21.....	838
					Sept. 28.....	856

KIDS

Night at the Nativity

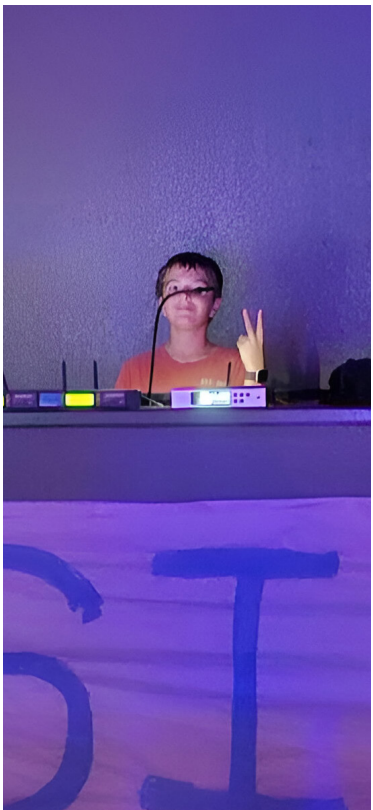
Join us on Sunday, December 14th from 5-7 as we celebrate Jesus through the nativity story presented by our Marvin Kids! Stick around for the party afterward with our favorite friends, the residents of Breckenridge Village! We will eat dinner, sing carols, enjoy crafts, cookies, and hot cocoa together with all the laughter and joy for the Advent season! We hope you will join us for this very special night!



STUDENTS

The Student Ministry has had a ton of things going on!

Unite, Covenant Groups, and of course, Confirmation. We have been seeing moves of the Spirit in subtle ways and in loud ways! But what is important to remember is that regardless of whether the Spirit speaks to us in a still, small voice, or through an earthquake, the reality is that He is speaking, and we are listening. We praise God when students come forward to be baptized, and we also praise God when students say, "This passage we just read spoke to me. I think I know Jesus a little bit better now." As humans we often measure things by size and magnitude, but God sees the heart and knows exactly what we need, when we need it, and how big it needs to be; all we must do is respond. We praise God for all that He is doing in our Jonah study on Sunday Nights, our James study on Wednesday Nights, and our Confirmation study on Sunday Mornings. Come, Holy Spirit!



BRICK STREET Block Party

Our second annual Brick Street Block Party was a hit! This year, with our Marvin family, friends from First Baptist Church and Christ Episcopal Church, we loved on thousands of people from our community! Our churches served 2,000 hot dogs dinners, had around 2,000 in attendance, shared in service together with over 350 volunteers from all three campuses, collected over 20,000 pieces of candy and even got to see Pastor Marc Donaldson and Sarah Scott get a pie to the face! Several organizations from our community brought helpful information to bless and serve others too. Thank you to our Sunday school classes, class meetings, bands, and ministries that served in some way for this event! This is a blessing to our community and most definitely brings the Body of Christ together!





MARVIN
Methodist Church

300 W. Erwin Street | Tyler, TX 75702

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Permit No. 568
Tyler, TX

marvin.com/events



MUSIC

Welcome to Marvin



Adretra & Robert
Reynolds



Handel's Messiah

"Hallelujah!" — you've definitely heard Handel's *Messiah* before in films, commercials and even flash mobs. Handel's *Messiah* is among the most revered oratorios of all time. Join the Marvin Chancel Choir and Tyler Junior College Choirs in Part I of Handel's timeless classic, *Messiah*. The concert is free and begins at 5 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 7.