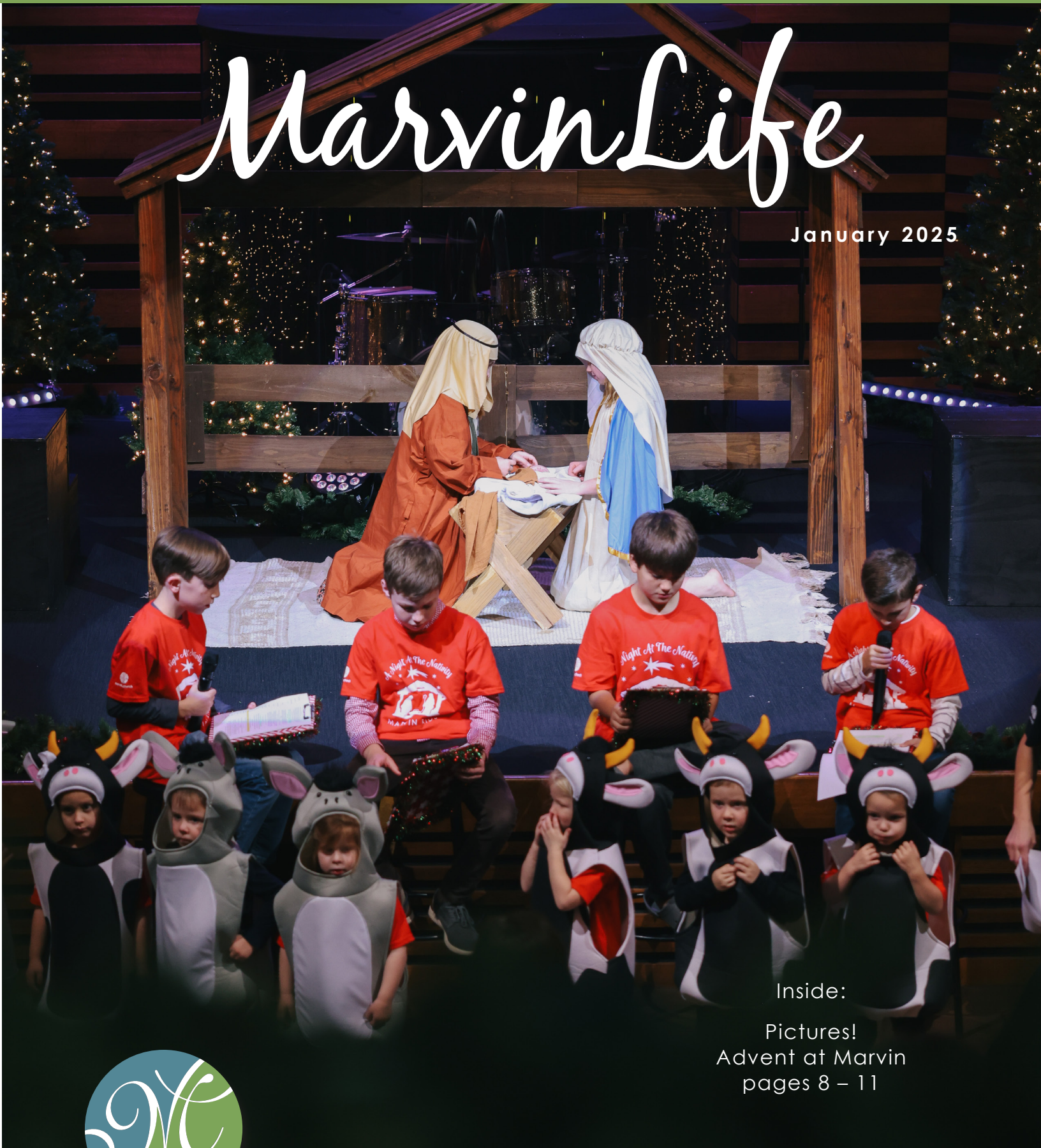


# MarvinLife

January 2025



Inside:

Pictures!  
Advent at Marvin  
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# Reflections from the senior pastor

As the new year begins, it is the custom of many to look back and celebrate what has occurred in the previous year. With the help of staff member Regina Childress, I would like to share this overview of what occurred in 2024. Our annual report will be forthcoming.

God has continued to lead Marvin Methodist Church as we forge a new path as a part of the Global Methodist Church. In January, Marvin began to operate under our new bylaws that were adopted in 2023. In September, Lay Delegate David Eikner attended the convening General Conference of the Global Methodist Church in Costa Rica.

The sanctuary underwent a major renovation this year in preparation for the new pipe organ coming in February 2026. The chancel area was enlarged to provide more room for the choir and musicians, as well as the organ and piano. Pews were refinished, walls were plastered and painted, and new carpeting was installed. Upgrades were also made to the lighting.

Traditional worship services were held in Pirtle Hall from April 9 through September 22. Summer worship was exciting, and people enjoyed the temporary change of venue. With renovations complete, the sanctuary was consecrated on September 29, followed by a fellowship luncheon for the congregation. We gave thanks that this beautiful space will be used to worship for many years to come.

Three years after our initial REVEAL Spiritual Life Survey helped us take stock of our spiritual health, it was time for a check-up. In the spring, congregants were invited to complete the Renovo Spiritual Life Inventory. The results showed that Marvin is on the right track with its discipleship pathway. We had a 14% increase of people in Stages 3 and 4, Close to Christ and Christ Centered. In the Renovo database, we scored in the top 10% of all churches who took the survey last time we were in the top 30%. Marvin is described as Energized and Vibrant (Energized means full of spiritual activity that is rarely haphazard; Vibrant means full of the life the Spirit gives); last time our church descriptors were Self-motivated and Average.

Marvin continued its presence in the community. Core worship hosted Easter in the Park and the church took a major leadership role in "Love Thy City," a new event that brought together different religious groups, businesses, and public service providers to serve our community. Marvin helped with the cost of the event, provided hands-on volunteers and collecting items for distribution. In October, Marvin Children's Ministry partnered with First Baptist Church to host the Brick Street Block Party, which took place in the parking lot between the two churches and featured food, games, and rides. The event was a big success and will involve more downtown churches next year. The Tyler Christmas parade route this year was scattered with Marvin volunteers in Marvin shirts, loving our neighbors and

inviting people to church concerts and worship services.

The Marvin staff had several changes this year. Diane Hawkins retired as Communications Director, Bobby Herrington took a safety position at The Brook Hill School, and April Lopez moved to Dallas. The Staff Parish Relations Committee led the church in the development of a new organizational chart. The following people joined our team: Rick Jett, Director of Business Operations; Carl Watson, Director of Operations and Safety; Danielle Strain, Communications Coordinator; Kenley Kizer, Assistant to Missions and Congregational Care; Zach Behrend, Facilities Team. The church is especially excited about the hiring of Jonathan Becker, Director of Student Ministries. Our youth ministry is growing, and we anticipate starting a Confirmation class of more than thirty in January.

Marvin Missions continued to serve the local community with Habits of the Heart, monthly Serve Nights, Great Day of Service, Mission Week, and partnership with Bonner Elementary School. The church provided relief for damage caused by wildfires in Texas, two Methodist Church fires, as well as hurricanes in North Carolina and Florida. Global missions continued to care for the missionaries we support. Adam Kovach, Director of Missional Expansion, led trips to Belize, India, Nepal, Japan and Tanzania.

The Discipleship Ministry reintroduced re|engage, a marriage enrichment program. The Women's Ministry hosted The Breathe Conference in February. Mothers of Preschoolers is now MOMS of Marvin. The Connections Ministry added the Marvin Express, a six-seat golf cart that transports those attending worship from their parking spaces to the building. The Men's Ministry hosted a chili cook-off. The Music Ministry hosted award-winning singer Sandi Patty in October and the Marvin choir has grown and continues to offer exceptional music each Sunday.

We give thanks for all that God has accomplished through Marvin Methodist Church in 2024. Thanks for your partnership in the ministry. Let's make 2025 even better!

*Doug*

Doug



Dr. Doug Baker

## Discipleship

Scan for class information and sign up here




Blood Drive

9 a.m.- 12:30 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 12.

Are you ready to make a difference in the lives of your neighbors? This is a fast, easy, and convenient way to give. One donation can save three lives. Go to [carterbloodcare.org](http://carterbloodcare.org) to schedule an appointment. A photo ID is required.

## Stewardship

### Annual Stewardship Campaign

As of the Marvin Life printing deadline, the Stewardship Campaign has received pledges in the amount of \$3,552,920. The Campaign's goal is to fund 75% of Marvin's 2025 Annual Operating Budget with pledges. Our Church Council has approved Marvin's 2025 Annual Operating Budget as \$5,067,000, so the Stewardship Campaign's goal is \$3.8 million.

If you have not yet turned in your 2025 Covenant Card, it is not too late to do so! You may submit a Covenant Card or use the QR code included with this article which will link you to Marvin's website.

If you have already made a covenant/pledge for 2025, Marvin Church is grateful for your generosity.

God is endlessly faithful to us, and His love for us in never ending. God showers us with boundless generosity, mercy, and grace. **How do we respond?**



Faithful God. Faithful Giving.



Scan code to make your pledge online

Yes! I/we will make an investment in God's Kingdom through Marvin Church.

Faithful God. Faithful Giving.

**2025 Covenant Card**  
Please print

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_

I/we will give a total amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

One-time gift \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Weekly \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Monthly \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Quarterly \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Which worship service do you attend?  
 Traditional  Core  Both

I/we would like to pay my pledge as follows:  
 Check  
 Tithe.ly giving app  
 Automatic bank withdrawal\*  
 Automatic credit card withdrawal\*

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_  
Date: \_\_\_\_\_

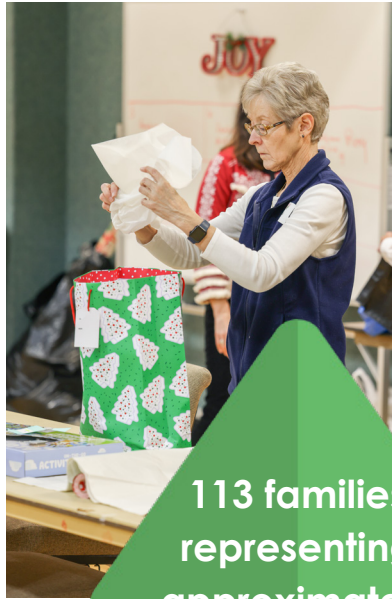
\*A form authorizing Marvin Church to charge your credit card or make a monthly debit from your checking account will be mailed to you.

God remembers His covenant forever, the promise He made, for a thousand generations. PSALM 105:8

Thank You!

A YEAR FULL OF  
**thanks**

Thank you from the Marvin Methodist Church Missions Ministry! 2024 was a year of opportunities and new adventures. We are so thankful for the many servant hearts who continue to freely give of their skills, time and resources to help bless countless individuals in the name of Christ! In the coming weeks, we will share an overview of the many ways you made a difference in 2024. We are going to have a great 2025!



113 families representing approximately 302 children were invited to Christmas Joy.

**CHRISTMAS JOY**

The Sweets for the Soul ministry serves the families of those under hospice care by delivering a little cheer in the form of homemade desserts and cards of encouragement. We serve the 2nd Monday of each month at Hospice of East Texas. If you would like to be a part of our fabulous baking crew or would like more information, contact Kenley Kizer at 903-592-7396 X121 or [kkizer@marvin.church](mailto:kkizer@marvin.church). Upcoming serve days at Hospice of East Texas are Jan. 13, Feb. 10, and March 10.



**Habits of the Heart:** Collection for January is food for St Paul's Children's Services Food Bank. Items needed are boxed meals, soups, peanut butter, canned meats, canned veggies.

**Serve Night, 6 p.m. Monday, Jan. 27**  
(A week later due to MLK holiday) – we will be assembling meal kits for local food banks.



**Great Day of Service**  
Saturday April 12th

**Mission Week**  
Saturday June 7-13

**Japan Visit: Asian Access Ministries**

by Adam Kovach, Director of Missional Expansion

In November 2024, I had the opportunity to go and visit the Adair family in northern Japan. Robert Adair has grown up in Marvin Methodist Church, and he and his family have now been serving with Asian Access Ministries for the last 12 years in Japan. It was encouraging to get to meet Robert and Roberta in person, as well as their four rambunctious little boys (Joseph 10, Benjamin 8, Andrew 6, and Timothy 4). I was able to see their ministry, the church they partner with and faithfully serve at, and even attend the English class they offer to their neighbors, all while speaking Japanese.

I was greatly impressed with how human the Adair family is. They eat breakfast, lunch, and dinner just like everyone else. They brush their teeth, they go to school, they watch TV and play games just like the rest of the world. Unlike the people in Japan, they are professing Christians who desperately want those they come into contact with to know Jesus as their Lord and Savior. Unlike the rest of Japan, they recognize the importance of hospitality and hosting people in their home for meals, coffee or tea.

In Japan, less than one percent of the population is Christian. Most people in Japan are Buddhist. Much of their culture revolves around being Buddhist. Seeing the way the Adair's share the Gospel with their neighbors, the other parents at the schools, and the people in the community in the heart of a Buddhist country was so encouraging. Marvin really has superhero missionaries!

The Adair family will be back in Tyler for a little bit from August 2025 until February 2026 and I strongly encourage you to spend some time getting to know them and their boys. While getting to know them, take time to learn how you can be praying for them and their ministry, and maybe even begin praying if the Lord is calling you to join Marvin Methodist Church Missions team in 2026 when we go to visit and serve with the Adairs in Japan.



**Upcoming International Mission Opportunities**

**Summer 2025**

Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania with Alfred Njau

**Spring 2026**

Northern Japan with the Adair family

If you are interested or would like more details contact Adam Kovach ([akovach@marvin.church](mailto:akovach@marvin.church))



Students ended UNITE for the year with an awesome Friendsgiving dinner and a fantastic Christmas party! We are excited for what God will do in and with our students in 2025!



**SPRING & SUMMER CALENDARS FOR WEEKLY PROGRAMMING ALONG WITH SPECIAL EVENT DATES ARE HERE! PICK ONE UP NEAR THE WELCOME CENTER TODAY!**



**New Moms Group Forming**

Moms of Marvin @ 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. The first meeting is Thursday, Jan. 9 in the Arts & Crafts Room (240). For questions or more information, contact Jaelyn Hooper at jh6467@gmail.com.

**Amazing grace Night Circle**

Come and meet Adam Kovach, Marvin's Director of Mission Development Expansion. Adam and some of his mission team will present a program on their mission trip to Western North Carolina doing relief work from Hurricane Helene. Marvin has an amazing Mission Team! So, come and learn more about what all they do. We will meet January 21st, at 6:00 p.m. in the home of Karen Hartt. Bring a friend or someone new to Marvin. All are welcome! For more Information, call Ann Head (903)279-9979

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

**galentines lock-in**

February 14th - 15th

Registration opens: December 27th | \$25

For all girls grades 6 - 12

Speakers: Tami Bell and Brandy Stevens

For more info, please contact Stephen Hughes: shughes@marvin.church

**Memorials as of Dec. 9, 2024**

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <b>Children's:</b><br>In honor of Melissa Caraway<br>Seekers Class  | <b>Missions:</b><br>In honor of Gina & Doug Baker<br>In honor of Leanne & Marc Donaldson<br>In honor of Laura & Gerry Giles<br>In honor of Jacob Joiner<br>In honor of Brandy Stevens<br>In honor of Shannon Pogue<br>In honor of Adam Kovach<br>Betsy Adams<br>In honor of Suzy Bruce<br>Seekers Class<br>In honor of Paula & John Perkins<br>Seekers Class<br>In memory of Bear Bowers<br>Pamela Bowers<br>In memory of Dean Chapman<br>In memory of Jack Hawkins<br>Linda & Wendell Rehm<br>In memory of Mary Murphy<br>Penny & John Spellman<br>In memory of Andy Wall<br>Laurie & Paul Breedlove<br>Breedlove Landscape<br>Ann Earl<br>Terry Fowler<br>Gaye & Ron Schoenbrun<br>Maureen & Charles Stone<br>Kathy & Alan Wilkerson<br>Debbie & Chris Woldert |
| <b>Eternal Flame:</b><br>In memory of Billie & Quintan Chamness<br>Anne & Garth Pattullo<br>Rita Breedlove & Lynne & Bob Sperry<br>In memory of Dean Chapman<br>Bill Martin<br>Rita Breedlove & Katie Sperry<br>Lynne & Bob Sperry<br>In memory of Patsy Clapp<br>Bill Martin<br>In memory of Rebecca Flickinger<br>Barbara & Billy Bass<br>Martha & Mac Griffith<br>Paula & John Perkins<br>Seekers Class<br>Emily Smith<br>In memory of Jan Garrett<br>Mary Ellen Hugus<br>In memory of Craig Harrison<br>Jon Brown<br>In memory of Mary Murphy<br>Weldon Sanders<br>In memory of Andy Wall<br>Barbara & Billy Bass<br>Ann & Brad Brookshire<br>Criterion Club<br>Mary & Ron Gammell<br>Elen Garrett<br>Kimberly & Charles Gordon<br>Mary Ellen Hugus<br>Mary Irwin<br>Robyn Rogers & Robert Rice | <b>Music:</b><br>In memory of Tandy Brandt<br>George Brandt<br>In memory of Casey Brownlow<br>Mary Alice Alfred<br>Laurie & Paul Breedlove<br>Breedlove Landscape<br>Jennifer & Patrick Deen<br>Mary Ann & Tom Dougherty<br>Anne Hagan<br>Cassandra Herrington<br>Martha & Barry Hughes<br>Carol & David Kehl<br>Ann & Roy Lilly<br>Elen Moncrieff<br>Debbie, Robert, Clint, Grant & Melissa Peveto<br>Maureen & Charles Stone<br>Meg Tapp<br>In memory of Rebecca Flickinger<br>Charlotte Wilson  |
| <b>Foundation:</b><br>In honor of Marvin Staff<br>Anne & Garth Pattullo<br>In memory of Duane Andrews<br>In memory of Casey Brownlow<br>In memory of Norma Cannon<br>In memory of Patsy Caton<br>In memory of Lorene Colburn<br>In memory of Jan Garrett<br>Mary Ann & Ray Cozby  |  |

Financial update through September					Attendance	
	Sept. budget	Sept. actual	YTD budget	YTD actual		
Gifts received/other income	\$ 311,896	\$ 375,743	\$ 3,675,275	\$ 3,631,793	November 3.....	976
Expenditures	\$ 459,476	\$ 448,727	\$ 4,369,516	\$ 4,181,312	November 10.....	893
Excess/(shortage)	\$ (147,580)	\$ (72,984)	\$ (694,241)	\$ (549,519)	November 17.....	803
					November 24.....	752

**Contact the church**

Marvin Church  
300 W. Erwin Street  
Tyler, TX 75702

 903.592.7396

 Facebook.com/Marvin.Methodist

 info@marvin.church

 Marvin.church

# STAFF HIGHLIGHT

## Joe Ulrich

For Joe Ulrich, Creative Director at Marvin, the days are filled with creating content for social media, taking photographs, filming videos, scheduling volunteers for Sunday mornings, working with the awesome communications team, preparing for Sunday A/V needs in the sanctuary and Herd Worship Center, and answering the call to help with various technical requests that arise.



When Joe joined the staff at Marvin he did not know much about the church, but he did know that it seemed like a great place to work and worship. What seemed like a great place to work and worship turned into a reality because five years later, he is an integral part of the Marvin staff. Joe's experience and expertise can be seen in almost every aspect of Marvin's communications, productions, and publications.

Joe and his wife, Alyssa, have been married for 11 years and they have five kids, Gretta, Adeline, Calvin, Otto, and Henley. Alyssa is a nurse, leads their kids in a homeschool group called "The Grove", and sings in the praise band in Core worship.

When asked what he enjoys the most about working at Marvin, he said, "This might be cliché, but it's got to be the people. I feel privileged to work with such a great staff and volunteer team and have made many friendships that have been life-giving for our family."

Outside of work, you will find Joe spending time with his family, playing golf, skateboarding, and running. You will also find him and Alyssa watching their kids participate in soccer, basketball, ballet, and singing in the kid's choir at Marvin. Sharing his hobbies and interests with his kids as they grow up is an absolute blessing and one that he does not take for granted. Joe loves his family and is grateful that his family is a part of the Marvin family.



## Advent at Marvin

### STAFF DAY OF SERVICE



## Advent at Marvin

### Christmas Downtown



### Widow's Christmas Luncheon



## Lessons & Carols



THE  
WONDER  
OF IT  
ALL  
ADVENT AT MARVIN







**MARVIN**  
Methodist Church

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Tyler, TX

## Welcome to Marvin



Sally and Blake  
Lackey



Kylar Moore



Kristen and Zachary  
Lawrence,  
Elizabeth and Thomas



Nancy and Al Tees



## Texas A&M Singing Cadets

At 7 p.m. Monday, Jan. 6, the Singing Cadets be performing at Marvin Methodist Church. Tickets for the concert are available on the church website or scan the code.

