



MARSHALL BAPTIST NEWS

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HOLIDAY REFLECTIONS

As we come through Thanksgiving and head quickly into the heart of the holiday season, my heart is full of gratitude. Over these past months, I've had the joy of getting to know so many of our pastors, churches, and ministry leaders across the Marshall Baptist Association. I've worshiped with you, prayed with you, shared meals with you, and even preached in many of your churches. Each visit reminds me that I have the best job ever! What a privilege it is to serve alongside such faithful congregations.

Now we turn our attention toward Advent — a season filled with the sights, sounds, and smells that tug on both our memories and our funny bones. The scent of fresh pine (or at least the artificial candle version), the sound of children's choirs singing slightly off-key, the glow of Christmas lights that may or may not survive one more year in the attic, and the hopeful expectation of a season that centers on a single miracle: **God came near.** Our Baby King came in His Manger-Throne — the Savior of the world entered our lives not with fanfare but with humility. Emmanuel — God *with* us — changed everything.

And soon, a new year will dawn. The calendar will flip, and with it comes fresh opportunity — new mercies, renewed vision, and a chance to lean even deeper into Christ's mission. My prayer is that 2026 becomes our strongest year yet as we seek Christ passionately, serve His Church faithfully, and commit ourselves wholeheartedly to reaching people and making disciples for the glory of God.

During this holiday season, I pray that we embrace gratitude, celebrate Emmanuel, and begin anew a fresh excitement and commitment to the Great Commission. And above all, let us live out the words the Psalmist penned in Psalm 96:3, "declare His glory among the nations, His marvelous works to all people."

I hope you have an amazing Holiday season filled with joy, peace, and anticipation for the One who makes all this possible... Emmanuel, God With Us!

Joy to the World,

Dr. Eric Taylor, AMS
Marshall Baptist Association

ANNOUNCEMENTS



THIRD THURSDAYS

Mark your calendars on the **THIRD THURSDAY** of EVERY MONTH for **Pastor Leadership Luncheons!** This is a time of prayer, worship, equipping and encouragement from high capacity leaders. To learn more, please email eric@marshallba.com.

DISASTER RELIEF TRAINING FEB. 19-21 IN ARAB

Would you like to get involved with Disaster Relief but don't know where to start? Look no further! Sponsored by the Marshall Baptist Association, there will be a Disaster Relief Training hosted by Gilliam Springs Baptist Church on Feb. 19-21, 2026. Areas of training will include Administration, Chaplaincy, Chainsaw, Clean-up and Recovery, Mass Feeding, and Showers and Laundry. The church is located at 1351 N. Brindlee Mountain Pkwy. in Arab. To learn more, log onto sbdr.org

SCHEDULE YOUR 2026 EVENTS AT MBRC

As the new year approaches, make plans for your church to enjoy a picnic or camping retreat at the Marshall Baptist Retreat Center. Learn more online at: www.marshallbaptistretreat.com

Check out our MBA website for more information on upcoming events and opportunities, as well as open church positions!
[Marshall Baptist Association | Home](http://MarshallBaptistAssociation.com)



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