



DISCIPLESHIP

The call to follow Jesus catapults us from our easy chairs and disrupts our comfortable lives. Some try to ignore their call to discipleship. Thinking, “If I hide long enough Christ will go away.” No such possibility!

The Holy Spirit will continue to call and interrupt our *perfect* lives . . . our retirement . . . our daily schedules . . . our *me* time. Whether our response is enthusiastic like Philip, or skeptical like Nathanael, or eager like James and John, Christ calls whom he wants for his purpose.

We are called to “come and see” and “follow” as the body of Christ—the Church. Christ’s hands and feet in the world today are ours. We are given spiritual gifts that equip us to serve as we are called. The Holy Spirit gives us the power. We must respond to our call.

Who Me? Yes, YOU!

If you wonder what you are personally called to do, explore your spiritual gifts in study with the Pastor this spring. Those with the gift of *teaching*, help others know Christ through study. Those with the gift of *exhortation*, encourage others along their journey. What are our gifts?

**Come and see God's deeds;
his works for human beings are awesome.**
Psalm 66:5 CEB

Christ warns us that discipleship is not cheap. It comes with a price of commitment and connection with his will. In return we have the promise of eternal life beginning here on earth and continuing into eternity. After all, Christ paid the price for us. Why should we get a pass? Because of him we are heirs, sons and daughters, in the family of God.

Try Him You'll Like Him

All Christians are called to share our stories of Christ and our connection with him. Don't be deterred because we cannot quote scripture and verse. Our enthusiasm and excitement about our experience with Christ is what people long to hear.

Our stories are our testimonies and our witness to the continued presence of Christ in the world. We invite and tell our stories over and over and over again. We are looking for those who are hungry for the word and thirsty for their hearts to be renewed.

Come and See

We connect with those who come as our guests. Over a cup of coffee in the Hemphill Hall or on Wednesday nights when we have fellowship meals.

As we enter the Lenten season, a time of reflection and preparation for Easter, let us bring others to *Come and See* Christ.

A Lay Servant Speaks

Whose Disciples are We?

By Wanda Lewis

The dictionary defines a disciple as . . .

- *One who embraces and assists in spreading the teachings of another.*
- *An active adherent, as of a movement or philosophy.*
- *One of the original followers of Jesus.*

I'll add another definition—modern-day disciples of Christ who still follow his teachings and are part of His movement to transform the world.

Today's world is filled with choices for Christ's disciples. Do we stand up for what is right or do we choose to not get involved? Do we love those who look like us, act like us, and like what we like? Or are we open to all of God's people?

The spreading of the Good News of Jesus Christ is still a movement that some may think ended when Jesus died on the cross. Truly, He died for our sins that we may be saved. But sin still exists—human degradation, the poor, the unloved, the lost, and the misunderstood.

God gave us Love. This great gift is the answer to all our problems. If we love one another we will respect each other. When we have been wronged or been hurt by someone, do we forgive him or her or do we seek revenge? Do we harden our hearts or do we try to understand? Do we take everything to God in prayer? Not just certain things but *everything*? Do we understand that all lives matter?

I challenge us as modern-day disciples of Christ to search our minds and hearts to answer these difficult questions.

Make 2015 the Year of Love

All the answers to a disciple's questions can be found in scripture.

- Luke 10:27 Jesus teaches that we must love the Lord our God with all our heart, with all our being, with all our strength, and with all our mind, and love our neighbor as ourselves.
- Luke 6:27 directs us to love our enemies and do good to those who hate us.
- Ecclesiastes 4:9-10 encourages unity that "Two are better than one because they have a good return for their hard work. If either should fall, one can pick up the other. But how miserable are those who fall and don't have a companion to help them up!"
- 1 Corinthians 13:4-6 concludes "Love is patient love is kind, it isn't jealous, it doesn't brag, it isn't arrogant, it isn't rude, it doesn't seek its own advantage, it isn't irritable, it doesn't keep a record of complaints, it isn't happy with injustice, but it is happy with the truth."

We must choose whom we will follow—the way of the world or Christ. As for me and our house, we choose Christ!

Prayer & Praise is a monthly publication of
Marvin United Methodist Church

4400 Wheeler Road, Martinez, GA 30907

706-863-0510

mumc1891@knology.net www.MarvinChurch.com

Facebook: Group: marvinchurch

Facebook: Page marvinunitedmethodist

Instagram: marvinunitedmethodist

Rev. Elizabeth Ackerman, *Pastor*
Kathryn Bush, *Church Administrator*
Katie Cox, *Designer*

PEOPLE OF HOPE

Kay & Wayne Hamilton: Quiet & Steady

When you see one, you see the other. Wayne and Kay Hamilton quietly move around the church fixing and cleaning and planting and painting and trimming and weeding and mowing and scrubbing and drying.

Wayne's truck can be seen at the church three out of five days a week, not counting Sundays. Kay is usually there working inside or right beside him finding a way to beautify the grounds.

"When we see something that needs to be done, we just do it," says Wayne. As a member of the Board of Trustees, Wayne helps oversee maintenance of the building. Volunteering his expertise but offering to God his commitment and dependability as his hallmark in our faith community.



Kay volunteered to take over the Clothes Closet two years ago when she retired. Each year the team she led gave away thousands of items to people in the community. "It's the little things that make a difference in the lives of people," concludes Kay.

She fulfilled this weekly responsibility while sandwiched between caring for her mother (who has since died) and enjoying time with their grandchildren. "With God's help we make it all work."

During the spring and summer months, their teamwork is something to watch. Coming to the church early in the morning dressed to work, they tackle one area after another. Whether it takes one hour or four hours they work side-by-side quietly as if reading each other's minds. After more than 40 years of marriage that might very well be possible.

Concludes Wayne, "I know so much about the ins and outs of this building, and I need to transfer that knowledge to others so that nothing is lost." No job is too little or big for this duo to tackle together.

It can make you tired just listening to the list of things they do . . . washing and drying dishes after Wednesday night supper . . . installing new light fixtures in the Family Life Center . . . repairing locks . . . scrubbing sinks in the bathrooms . . . and so on . . . and so on.

Look around and you will see them quietly but steadily giving of themselves in service to God.

Jesus told his disciples, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me.

Matthew 25:21 NRSV

Discipleship in Action

By *Leslie Wright, Ga-Lina Board of Directors*

The Walk to Emmaus is a 72-hour time away with Jesus. In the presence of many other men and women, the Pilgrims on that weekend grow spiritually and return to their local church to serve with great enthusiasm and commitment.

Marvin has been a strong supporter of the Georgia-Carolina Emmaus Community since its beginning over 20 years ago. Emmaus is an Upper Room program organized in communities around the world. Teenagers who have completed ninth grade and young adults may also be invited to participate in a *Chrysalis Flight*. Youth must be mature and self-disciplined to get the most out of their 72-hour weekend.

Your Invitation

You must be invited to the Walk to Emmaus by someone who has gone before you. That person becomes your sponsor and will support you in making the decision to attend, taking and picking you up from the weekend, and praying for you from beginning to end.

2015 Weekends

Men's Walk to Emmaus, April 16-19

Women's Walk to Emmaus, April 23-26

Chrysalis Flight, June date TBA

Kairos (prison ministry), March 19-22

Costs

There is one flat rate for men or women to attend Emmaus—\$100. This includes all meals and materials needed for the weekend. Sunday School classes, Bible study groups, Men's Fellowship, and Marvin Women may choose to assist a Pilgrim who needs assistance.

If You're Interested

Ask anyone who has gone on the walk about the process and ask for an application. We are already praying for you and others who inquire. When the time is right for you, your schedule will work out, money will be available, and your heart will be ready to embrace a new experience with Christ and others.

We Bear Witness to Christ's Presence ...

Rev. Elizabeth Ackerman: It took me four years to finally get to go on the Walk to Emmaus in the Pathway East community in Conyers. I never laughed, talked, or cried as much as I did that weekend. It ended with me surrendering to God's plan for my life—parish ministry. I began seminary three months later and was appointed to Marvin five years later. The Emmaus experience led me to a point of decision after uninterrupted conversation with Jesus Christ.

Leslie Wright: The Walk to Emmaus remains the single biggest impact on me—ever. It honestly changed my life. My goal is to pass this powerful experience on as I continue to sponsor others and work the Walks.



Approximately 50 members of Marvin have experienced the Walk to Emmaus. Here are just a few of us! Ask us how you can experience Christ through a weekend of quietness and community with Emmaus-Chrysalis-Kairos.

Jayne Thompson: At Chrysalis I lived without my phone for 72 hours. It was my getaway from the outside world to be with Christ. After that I wanted to help others share the same type of experience—finding yourself and finding Christ.

Richard Albert: Christ was a big part of my life as a child, but I wanted nothing to do with church after Vietnam. For over 20 years I was in a dark place until I found Christ waiting for my return at Marvin. Soon after, Bob Eash invited me to Emmaus and my life was changed. I nailed my sin to the cross, and I felt immediate relief that night.

Carol Hendrickson: I went because a friend in choir was so on fire when she came back that she was beyond being on cloud 9! I wanted some of that!

Alex Eash: Jesus meets us at Chrysalis every time . . . whether you are experiencing it for the first time or whether you have worked it many times!

Becky Collins: Emmaus is an encounter with the presence of God you will never forget.

Mary Eash: I went kicking and clawing, but what I saw in my husband from the previous weekend was what God was calling me to do. My life was changed drastically. My heart was heavy and mind full of mixed emotions. I met Jesus face-to-face. He healed my heart and mind. I learned to let go and step up to the plate in Christian action.

Brenda Ford: When I think of the Walk to Emmaus, I think of one word—Freedom!

Ed Boothe: I've worked the Kairos prison ministry for 10 years at the South Carolina State Prison . . . 72 hours . . . 42 residents . . . a three-year waiting list. This is a powerful experience! . . . Inmates without hope find hope, and lives are changed. Come and see!

Mary Boothe: Chrysalis—It's fun. It's exciting. It's life changing! It shows teens how to be a Christian in today's world.

Carol Null: I went to Emmaus 21 years ago, and I haven't been the same since. Where I am today is because of the Emmaus community that continues to hold me accountable to my daily Christian walk.

Marvinites: Faithful Servants



Julie Merritt is a powerhouse of energy who works wherever she is needed. She loves to dress up and entertain the children with stories from the Bible. After years of teaching Sunday

School and Children's Church plus attending small group gatherings and Bible study classes, Julie has a memory for the Bible, book, chapter, and verse. With a heart for loving animals (from squirrels to dogs), Julie is the one to call when going on vacation. She cares for each pet as if it were her own. She rescues wild animals, nurses them back to health, and returns them to the wild. Julie watches over all of God's creations with care.

Rosa Dauda and Cheryl LaValley promise to be a dynamite duo for us in 2015 as they bring us the Kitchen Table Ministry between services in the Hemphill Hall. They are committed to this coffee and conversation ministry. Their smiles and greetings will fill a void for early arrivals at the 11:00 service and those who have not decided which Sunday School class to attend. Rosa and Cheryl help us connect with our guests and encourage continued participation.



Tom Null begins his first full year as chair of the Board of Trustees at Marvin. With several years' experience at another church, Tom accepted leadership of the Trustees for the past six months. With new Trustees coming on board in 2015, Tom will not only conduct meetings but will also help our emerging leaders find their place to work. The Board of Trustees handle all real property, facility maintenance and rental, capital improvements, and operations management of the church. They approve acceptance of sizeable donations and disposal of items that have served their usefulness.



Marvin Men ready to serve—Charaz Joseph, Tom Null, Wade Smith, and Ernest Hopper.

THE FINAL TITHE

Reprinted by permission from the Georgia United Methodist Foundation Legacy newsletter, 2014.

Over the next 50 years, it is estimated that between \$41 and \$136 trillion will pass from older Americans to younger generations. However, nearly 60% of Americans do not have a will. And only 8% of American wills contain any charitable giving whatsoever. The result is that only about 3% of all Christians, including United Methodists, leave anything to charity, with even less to continue God's work. To paraphrase our Lord, where are the other 97% to give thanks and glory to God? [Luke 17:11-19, NIV]

When God richly provides, as Christians, we have an opportunity to give a final tithe to ministries we cherish. Tithing is the practice of giving one-tenth of one's income or possessions to God. The final tithe is a way to continue blessing present and future generations even after you have completed your time on earth.

ENDOWMENT

Would you consider establishing a Georgia United Methodist Foundation Charitable Gift Annuity (CGA) or gift to the church in your will to establish a permanent endowment for future generations? Using a CGA or your will to fund a permanent endowment with the Georgia United Methodist Foundation to benefit the ministries that you cherish is a gift that keeps on giving. If we as United Methodists would leave a tenth of our estates to God, imagine the impact we could have for God's kingdom? We could leave a legacy of generosity for all generations.

At the Georgia United Methodist Foundation, we are prepared to assist you in leaving a legacy that will stir God's heart. As you stand before your Heavenly Father, our prayer is that you will hear these words: "Well done, good and faithful servant! ... Come and share your master's happiness!" [Matt. 25:21, NIV]

Jesus said, "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." [Matt. 6:19-21, NIV, emphasis added.]

What will your legacy be? When you enter into God's eternal kingdom, will your last act on earth be a witness that you had a heart for God?

For more information about the Georgia Methodist Foundation. Visit their website at <http://www.gumf.org/>

ONLINE GIVING

Here's another way to keep up with your donations and use the technology at your fingertips. Register for online giving at our website, www.MarvinChurch.com.

Vacations and Sundays you are unable to attend church does not have to stop your giving. You can honor your commitments and support the missions and operation of the church regularly.

We give in response to God's unconditional love for us, and out of gratitude we share with others.



February @ Marvin

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
1 8:45 Worship 9:45 Sunday School 11 Worship	2 9:30 UMW mtg 2 Sr. line dancing 4 Girl Scouts 6 UMM mtg	3 10 Hebrews Study (women)	4 2 Sr. Exercise 5:30 Dinner 6 Prayer & Praise 7 Choir Practice	5	6 2 Sr. Exercise	7
8 8:45 Worship 9:45 Sunday School 11 Worship	9 2 Sr. line dancing 6 Romans Study (men)	10 10 Hebrews Study (women) 7 Finance Mtg	11 2 Sr. Exercise 5:30 Dinner 6 Prayer & Praise 7 Choir Practice	12	13 2 Sr. Exercise	14 Valentine's Day
15 8:45 Worship 9:45 Sunday School 11 Worship	16 MLK Jr. Holiday 4 Girl Scouts 6 Romans Study (men)	17 10 Hebrews Study (women)	18 2 Sr. Exercise 6 Dinner 7 Ash Wednesday service	19	20 2 Sr. Exercise	21
22 8:45 Worship 9:45 Sunday School 11 Worship	23 6 Romans Study (men)	24 10 Hebrews Study (women)	25 2 Sr. Exercise 5:30 Dinner 6 Prayer & Praise 7 Choir Practice	26	28 2 Sr. Exercise	28

Let's Study, Pray, and Meditate Together for Lent

Ash Wednesday, February 18

Pancake Dinner, 6 p.m.

Ash Wednesday Service, 7 p.m.

Pick up your family's copy of the Upper Room
daily devotional for our community-wide Lenten study
from now until Easter, April 5