

Marvinites

We begin this feature by introducing those who will be our 2015 church leaders. Their terms are three years, but can be extended by a vote of the Church.



Sandy Leathers began leading our ministry teams as chair of the Church Council in May. You know Sandy as the organizer of Scholarships for high school seniors, chair of the older adults (Boomers & Beyond), and co-chair of the Golf Tournament.

David Garber will chair our Finance Committee starting January. He has served in this position before and as treasurer of the church. He brings wisdom to continue the work of this committee. David is also the facilitator of the Seekers Sunday School class.



Leslie Wright continues to serve as our Lay Leader who provides guidance to all laity (anyone other than clergy). She is also our annual conference delegate who votes on issues that affect us in North Georgia. Leslie sits on the Emmaus Board of Directors.

Ed Leathers will chair the Staff Parish Relations Committee (SPRC). This team helps the pastor maintain her relationship with the community and oversees church staff. In 2015, the SPRC will work with the pastor to achieve goals that have been set together.



All committee meetings are open to the community, except SPRC due to confidentiality of discussions.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT DINNER IS BACK!

Come and bring someone with you!

- **Prophetic Bible Study**, 4:00, Library
- **Fellowship Meals** began on October 1 at a new time, 5:15, giving more time to fellowship
- **Campfire** gathers in the gym, grades K-12, 6-7:30, with adult supervision
- **Prayer & Praise** begins, 6:00, Sanctuary
- **Choir Rehearsal**, 7:00, Hemphill Hall

MORE PEOPLE

The faithful **YARD CREW** at Marvin is a blessing. We do not pay for services, but volunteers give their time to this valuable work: Wayne Hamilton, Steve Wright, Bob Pitts, Phillip Ackerman, Phil Hendrickson, Devan Anderson, and ever-present assistant Kay Hamilton

RETIRING from leadership—*but not service*

Sue McMillan, SPRC chair
Ken Hedrick, Finance chair
Wayne Hamilton, Trustee chair
Mary Boothe, Church Council chair
Margaret Olmstead, UMW President
Pick up a complete list of new committee members at the Church Office after the October 5 Church Conference.

Welcome our **NEW MEMBERS**
Barri Calloway, Ty & Cheryl LaValley, and Nancy Good

Remember our **HOMEBOUND**
Dot Adkins, Ray Usry, Jackie Schank, and Libbie Nichols,



Making all things new . . . again

Fall at Marvin is a time of thanksgiving for our bountiful blessings from God. The Marvin faith community invites our neighbors to join us in serving and giving as we worship and say thanks for October's harvest, November's blessings, and December's long-awaited Messiah.

We come alive with renewed energy focused on prayer, scripture study, volunteerism, missions, kids and older adult activities. Join in serving October through December! Here's how you can help . . .

Lydia Project supports women who are undergoing cancer treatment. Volunteer!

- Write monthly notes to cancer patients.
- Sew cloth bags for patients.
- Donate \$1.00 for each luminary that will light our corner in December.
- Beverly Courson, Coordinator, call Office to sign up 706-863-0510.

Pumpkin Patch Festival is for kids of all ages, Wednesday, October 29.

- Trunk-or-Treat begins at 5:30 for our little guests but we arrive and decorate our car trunks at 5 p.m.
- Chili Cook-off will once again be the dinner treat sampling the offerings of our great cooks!
- Live music.
- Fun games and prizes make this a family affair.

Grovetown Feeding prepares meals for older residents for Thanksgiving Day. The city's police and fire departments deliver the meals to those in need. You may . . .

- Cook turkeys and bring to church by Thursday morning or help cook at church Wednesday and Thursday.
- Donate money or food (canned green beans and cranberry sauce or stuffing).
- Help box the meals on Thursday.

Warriors in Transition supports our soldiers, Monday, December 10, 6 p.m.

- Cook one of the dishes on the menu for that evening.
- Decorate gym in the afternoon or help clean up after the event.
- Serve food, pour drinks, or greet guests
- Join in on line dancing.
- Sitting or standing your help is needed.

*Don't hesitate to be enthusiastic—be on fire in the Spirit as you serve the Lord! . . .
Contribute to the needs of God's people, and welcome strangers into your home.*

Romans 12:11, 13 CEB

PASTOR'S BLOG

On **Tuesday, October 7 at 7 p.m.**, Marvin will host an Interfaith Healing Service for the whole community in support of those whose lives have been touched by mental illness. This will also be a time when family members, caregivers, and their health care providers will gather in unity on their behalf.

If we come together to pray for and learn more about mental illness, there can be Unity in the Community. *Interfaith* means that we will have Jewish, Muslim, and Christian denominations joining together in worship.

I cannot begin to say I understand all the complexities of issues those with mental illness face. But this I do know. It *is not* about one group or another, nor is it about one faith tradition or another. It *is* about how we care for all of God's people. How will we unite to help them find their place in the community.

As Christians, we believe Jesus healed and restored people to life in the community. Jesus is still in the healing business. God has given health professionals knowledge to assist in that healing process. We too have a part to play.

Let's step up and do our part. Come and get information about mental illness so that we can be the hands and feet of Christ as we encounter people in our faith communities, our neighborhoods, at work, and in our own families.

God calls Marvin to be a healing church open *for* and *to* all who hunger and thirst for God.

We also respect others who believe in an almighty power outside themselves.

"Is your heart right, as my heart is with your heart?" . . . "If it is give me your hand."
2 Kings 10:15

First Edition: Ready, Set, Go

Welcome to the first edition of the *Gateway to Hope* newsletter for the Marvin faith community and our neighbors.

Marvin is alive with activity that serves the local community and international missions. Each month the publication will feature . . .

- ministry highlights,
- a BLOG by the pastor,
- small group gatherings,
- bible and book studies,
- age-level activities,
- volunteer opportunities,
- feature stories about people and their testimonies,
- sermon series, and
- marriages, births, deaths, and people updates.

Submit your group's activities to the Church Administrator by the second Friday of each month.

Gateway to Hope will be filled with stories of committed people busy transforming the world.



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Kathryn Bush, *Church Administrator*

October @ Marvin

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
			1 2 Sr. Exercise 4 Prophecy Study 5:15 Dinner 6 Prayer 7 Choir Practice	2	3 2 Sr. Exercise	4 8 Pumpkins arrive
5 World Communion Special Offering 8:45 Worship 9:45 Sunday School 11 Worship 3 Church Conf.	6 9:30 UMW mtg 2 Sr. line dancing 4 Girl Scouts 6 UMM mtg	7 10 Spiritual Gifts Study 7 Interfaith Healing Service	8 2 Sr. Exercise 4 Prophecy Study 5:15 Dinner 6 Prayer 7 Choir Practice	9 7 Trustee mtg 7 SPRC mtg	10 2 Sr. Exercise	11
					Fall Camp Meeting @ White Oak	
12 8:45 Worship 9:45 Sunday School 11 Worship	13 2 Sr. line dancing	14 10 Spiritual Gifts Study 7 Finance mtg	15 2 Sr. Exercise 4 Prophecy Study 5:15 Dinner 6 Prayer 7 Choir Practice	16 12 Sr. potluck lunch	17 2 Sr. Exercise	18 8 Pumpkins arrive
19 8:45 Worship 9:45 Sunday School 11 Worship	20 2 Sr. line dancing 4 Girl Scouts	21 10 Spiritual Gifts Study	22 2 Sr. Exercise 4 Prophecy Study 5:15 Dinner 6 Prayer 7 Choir Practice	23	24 2 Sr. Exercise	25
					Children's Consignment Sale	
26 Aldersgate Homes Special Offering 8:45 Worship 9:45 Sunday School 11 Worship	27 2 Sr. line dancing	28 10 Spiritual Gifts Study	29 6-8 Pumpkin Patch Festival with Trunk-or-Treat & Chili Cook-off	30	31 2 Sr. Exercise	

Pumpkin Patch Open October 4 - 31

Mondays-Fridays Noon – 7 p.m. ○ Saturdays 10 a.m. – 8 p.m. ○ Sundays 1 – 6 p.m.

BOOMERS & BEYOND October 16 Potluck Lunch

Boomers & Beyond (formerly called older adults) have events planned to strengthen our connections. Friends and neighbors are welcome at dinners, outings, volunteer missions, and potlucks. Watch for announcements in this newsletter each month.

MARVIN

Beyond 2020

If we are to learn from Nehemiah how to rebuild for the future, what legacy will we leave that carries the word of God to the next generation?

We cannot rebuild church to be like those we grew up in because that age is gone. Instead, we must *Rethink Church* to be the people of God preparing for tomorrow. Rather than limiting ourselves to a building, place, and time, we seek a broader vision.

Connect with people who seek a community that walks through life with them. This is the base of Marvin's vision for church. We connect with radical hospitality, equip each other for life's journey, and we grow closer to God and each other by serving together.

Let's create new spaces for new people!



October

HEALING WATERS

Sermon series guides us gently to a deeper relationship with Christ moving from troubled waters to healing waters

8:45 and 11:00 worship

Grounded in Scripture (equipped)

- 9:45 Sunday School for all ages—Walton lectionary based; Seekers book study; Children and Youth bible study and life lessons
- 10 a.m. Tue. Women's Study—*Spiritual Gifts*
- 4 p.m. Wed. Study—*Revelation*
- 6 p.m. Mon. Men's Study

Connected by Love (small groups)

- 2 p.m. Mon., Wed., Fri.—Fit to Serve exercise for Boomers & Beyond
- 5 p.m. Wed.—Youth group
- 6 p.m. Wed.—Prayer & Praise
- 2 p.m. Thurs.—Friendly Loving People schedule community-wide activities for Boomers and Beyond
- 9:30 a.m. 1st Mon.—Marvin Women mtg
- 6 p.m. 1st Mon.—Men's Group mtg

Sent to Serve (worship and volunteer)

- Pumpkin Patch, Oct. 4-31
- Tues., Oct. 7, 7 p.m.—Interfaith Healing Service for Mental Illness in cooperation with other faith communities
- Pumpkin Patch Festival, Wed., Oct. 29, 6 p.m., trunk-or-treat, chili cook-off, and children's games
- Spooky When Hungry food drive

November

THE HEART OF THE MATTER

Sermon series challenges us to go to the core of our being and see choices through biblical and contemporary characters

8:45 and 11:00 worship

Grounded in Scripture (equipped)

- 9:45 Sunday School for all ages—Walton lectionary based; Seekers book study; Children and Youth bible study and life lessons
- 10 a.m. Tues. Women's Study—*Women of Christmas*
- 6 p.m. Mon. Men's Study

Connected by Love (small groups)

- 2 p.m. Mon., Wed., Fri.—Fit to Serve exercise for Boomers & Beyond
- 5 p.m. Wed.—Youth group
- 6 p.m. Wed.—Prayer & Praise
- 2 p.m. Thurs.—Boomers & Beyond schedule community-wide activities for older adults
- 9:30 a.m. 1st Mon.—Marvin Women mtg
- 6 p.m. 1st Mon.—Men's Group mtg

Sent to Serve (worship and volunteer)

- Sun., Nov. 9, youth visit veterans and deliver gift bags
- Nov. 26-27, food preparation for feeding Grovetown hungry in cooperation with their Police and Fire Departments

December

I BELIEVE EVEN WHEN . . .

Sermon series calls us to look past our doubts and fears during the Advent season

One service during month of December

Grounded in Scripture (equipped)

- 9:45 Sunday School for all ages—Walton lectionary based; Seekers book study; Children and Youth bible and life lessons
- 10 a.m. Tues. Women's Study—*Women of Christmas*
- 6 p.m. Mon. Men's Study

Connected by Love (small groups)

- 2 p.m. Mon., Wed., Fri.—Fit to Serve exercise for Boomers & Beyond
- 5 p.m. Wed.—Youth group
- 6 p.m. Wed.—Prayer & Praise
- 2 p.m. Thurs.—Boomers & Beyond schedule community-wide activities for older adults
- 9:30 a.m. 1st Mon.—Marvin Women mtg
- 6 p.m. 1st Mondays—Men's Group
- 7 p.m. Fridays—Young Adult eXcape

Sent to Serve (worship and volunteer)

- Mon., Dec. 8, 6 p.m.—Wounded Warriors dinner
- Dec. 14, Church-wide Christmas Potluck Dinner
- Dec. 21, Christmas in Word and Song
- Dec. 24, 6 p.m., Family Christmas Eve service

For KIDS Only

Ministry for school-aged children includes Sunday School, Children's Church, and Wonderful Wednesday.

- 9:45 Sunday bible classes focus on one story each month with different activities each week
- 11:15 worship releases children up to grade three to attend a service designed for them
- 6:00 Wednesday nights after dinner children gather in the gym for fun activities with a bible story theme

The **Pumpkin Patch Festival** is the fun-and-games event for children.

Children Musicals are particularly fun during the holiday seasons as they learn Christmas, Easter, and special occasion songs.

Acolytes bring in the light of the Christ at worship services. They may also be asked to read scripture or help in other ways.

Movie Night is a chance for parents to have a night out. This gets to be beneficial during the month of December.

Vacation Bible School is our summer time of learning that draws children of all ages to Christ.

Nursery

Children from birth to age four have care during the 11:00 worship service with trained caregivers.

- Parents sign their toddler in at 10:45
- Provide cell phone in case of emergency
- Same parent who checks child in must check child out

Youth

The youth ministry includes middle and high schoolers. In some activities they are together and in others they go their separate ways.

- 9:45 Sunday bible classes they are in separate groups

5:00 **Wednesdays** they are together for learning. With scripture as their base, youth engage in discussions, watch movies, and join in choir rehearsal on occasion.

Worship Sundays is a time for youth to participate in leading, serving, or greeting.

- Sing with the Praise Team
- Bring in light of Christ as Acolytes
- Read scripture and offer prayers
- Assist with technology
- Greet guests and escort around church

Lock-Ins are nights when youth come to church for an all-night event that may include games, discussions, music, movies, and special guests.

Escapes include youth events organized by the Augusta District of UMC to include retreats, skate nights, and service days.

Chrysalis is a 72-hour experience of God in the company of other youth. The GA-Lina Emmaus community helps youth grow spiritually in a retreat setting.

River of Life is a summer mission project that changes lives of both those served and those who serve.

All children and youth activities are supervised by Safe Sanctuary trained volunteers who are at least 5 years older than those they supervise, been in community 6 months or more, and passed a criminal background check.

PEOPLE OF HOPE

Bill Davitte: A man for all seasons

Bill DaVitte committed his life to serving God in a way that could be seen by passersby.

On the corner of Wheeler and Belair roads, sits the gray granite rock church that meant so much to the Davitte family. For years Bill served on the Board of Trustees and took as his personal project to grow the grass that marked Marvin as the gateway to Columbia County. Bill watered, mowed, fertilized, and mulched the grounds around the corner that 34,000 cars pass each day.

The Marvin corner that Bill tended has year-round appeal. The gateway corner prepares for the activity of the pumpkin harvest in the fall.



Each year Bill Davitte organized a team to play in the annual Golf Tournament begun by the Marvin Women four years ago.

Then, the corner quiets down for the winter with Lydia Project luminaries at Christmas. The Gateway greets spring with a bed of azaleas that serve as the backdrop for Good Friday's dramatic passion play. The shade trees disrupt the summer's scorching heat.

This corner was Bill's personal project and his gift to the community where he grew up, and where he learned to love God in Jesus Christ.

Bill supported the Marvin Women as they organized their first golf tournament, and his team won first place. Just as quickly as they won they turned and gave their prizes away to other golfers. They were there for the fun of the game!

Beverly Courson grew up with Bill in Martinez when Belair was a dirt road and riding their bicycles to Washington Road was an afterschool activity.

Richard Albert counted on Bill to help put up fencing for the Pumpkin Patch for the past 10 years. He remembers Bill's dad, an agriculture teacher, who must have taught Bill the love of planting and growing.

Julie Merritt taught Bill and Jenny's son Tyler in Sunday School and Children's Church.

Bill touched so many people's lives.

"Well done my good and faithful servant." Matthew 25:23