



## Keeping our Promise to Family Promise

**Families who need a helping hand to recover from their losses are welcome at Marvin. Three times a year our faith community hosts as many as three families through Family Promise, formerly known as Interfaith Hospitality.**

### *Marvin Stands with Families*

Marvin signed on to this radical hospitality and mission effort 10 years ago. Mary Eash coordinates this week-long, all-hands-on-deck mission. She rounds up the volunteers—overnight hosts, cooks for dinner meals, and movers for bringing families in and out.

Master's week has been Marvin's responsibility for hospitality for years. On Sunday afternoon, two to three families will call Marvin home while taking a spring break from school.

Each family has a room where beds are set up and their belongings are kept. Each night a Marvin group prepares dinner, and that group's members join our guests for a 6 p.m. family-style meal. Each night at least two Marvinites stay overnight to be certain everything goes well.

After dinner, families may enjoy games, sports in the gym, or television and pool.

Showers and preparation for bedtime brings a close to the family's day that will begin again when they leave for the day at 7 a.m. Older children go to school and preschoolers are watched over by Grandmothers at a center.

According to Mary, this Augusta-wide program unites churches in mission to families in need. Parents are assisted with finding jobs while their children are cared for and kept in safe places.

Marvin usually has two additional weeks to host the families, but we also offer shelter when other churches need support.

### *How Can I Help Families?*

- **Donate** a meal or money towards a meal if you are unable to be present.
- **Volunteer** to be an overnight host with another person.
- **Come** and eat dinner with the families.
- **Organize** your group to provide a meal.
- **Smile** and greet our guests wherever you see them—extend radical hospitality which anticipates their needs and encourages their hearts.

Offering hospitality is easier than you think. We commit our time and resources to help families continue to be valued and contributing members of our community.

**"All the believers were united and shared everything ...They shared food with gladness and simplicity. They praised God and demonstrated God's goodness to everyone."**

**Acts 2:44, 46b, 47a CEB**



Olive wood sculpture from the Holy Land now at home in our Family Life Center display case.

## Come Grow with Us!

Jesus asked Simon Peter to use his boat to preach to the people along the shore of Lake Gennesaret (*also known as the Sea of Galilee*). When Jesus finished speaking to the crowds that had gathered, he told Simon Peter to “Row out farther, into the deep water, and drop your nets for a catch.”

This is also Christ’s message to the faith community at Marvin. Like Peter in this scripture (*see text to the right*), we also must prepare to cast our nets. Peter obeyed Jesus even though he doubted: “But because you say so, I’ll drop the nets.” The catch was more than Peter expected. There was abundance with more than enough for others.

The message for us is to continue to trust Christ and the catch will be abundant. We are to ground everything we do in prayer and work smarter and work in unity.

We have talked about the why of making disciples for Christ and now we must talk about the what. The Church Council meeting on May 16 takes planning from thought to action. This meeting, led by Sandy Leathers, is open to anyone who wants to make disciples for Christ.

Jesus told Simon Peter, “Don’t be afraid. From now on you will be fishing for people.”

It is time for new growth that remains connected to the vine who is Jesus Christ. *Come follow Jesus and grow with us!*

<sup>1</sup>One day Jesus was standing beside Lake Gennesaret [Sea of Galilee] when the crowd pressed in around him to hear God’s word. <sup>2</sup>Jesus saw two boats sitting by the lake. The fishermen had gone ashore and were washing their nets. <sup>3</sup>Jesus boarded one of the boats, the one that belonged to Simon, then asked him to row out a little distance from the shore. Jesus sat down and taught the crowds from the boat. <sup>4</sup>When he finished speaking to the crowds, he said to Simon, “**Row out farther, into the deep water, and drop your nets for a catch.**”

<sup>5</sup>Simon replied, “Master, we’ve worked hard all night and caught nothing. But because you say so, I’ll drop the nets.”

<sup>6</sup>So they dropped the nets and their catch was so huge that their nets were splitting. <sup>7</sup>They signaled for their partners in the other boat to come and help them. They filled both boats so full that they were about to sink. <sup>8</sup>When Simon Peter saw the catch, he fell at Jesus’ knees and said, “Leave me, Lord, for I’m a sinner!” <sup>9</sup>Peter and those with him were overcome with amazement because of the number of fish they caught. <sup>10</sup>James and John, Zebedee’s sons, were Simon’s partners and they were amazed too.

Jesus said to Simon, “Don’t be afraid. From now on, you will be fishing for people.” <sup>11</sup>As soon as they brought the boats to the shore, they left everything and followed Jesus.

Luke 5:1-11 CEB

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# The LaValleys Marvin Missionaries in Africa



Cheryl LaValley is the next missionary to go out from Marvin to Côte d'Ivoire, Africa. Her husband Ty already serves as Scouting leader there with the United Methodist Church.

The process for selection as a missionary and training once selected assures preparation for service. Cheryl has been approved by the General Board of Global Ministries and will be commissioned at the North Georgia Annual Conference in Athens this June.

## Becoming a Missionary

All missionaries are called out of the local church and serve as part of the local conference. The Marvin faith community will be there to support Cheryl in her transition to Côte d'Ivoire. Those who have gone on missionary trips understand the challenges faced by this move.

Cheryl's experience as an army wife has prepared her to be uprooted and moved to a new place. The Holy Spirit continues to prepare her for her work—training other teachers and pastors, as well as teaching the children of Côte d'Ivoire.

## Begin Praying now for their Missions

We have a part in their missions, and it begins with prayer. The call to be a missionary commissioned by the United Methodist Church involves all of us because we are to be the backbone for their efforts. Funding of missions like theirs are supported by donations from local churches and individuals. Mission trips by local churches bring additional hands needed to do the work.

**“Don't neglect to open up your homes to guests, because by doing this some have been hosts to angels without knowing it.” Hebrews 13:2 CEB**

## Their New Home

The LaValleys' home in Côte d'Ivoire includes lodging for small groups and gathering rooms for meetings. Radical hospitality begins with their open doors and open hearts. Cheryl will have a classroom on the ground floor of the house that she can turn into her teaching space for Sunday school teachers and pastors.

Cheryl has already begun practicing radical hospitality at Marvin by teaming with Rosa Dauda to organize receptions every week after 11:00 worship. Coffee, juice, donuts, cookies, and uplifting conversation fill the Hemphill Hall on Sunday afternoons thanks to this duo.

We rejoice with the LaValleys and pray for their missions.



Church lay leaders and clergy learn together at a district leadership training session. Many of these sessions will be held in the LaValley's home.

# We Are Methodists



As Methodists we believe that all things in heaven and earth were created by and belong to God.

**We believe that Jesus is the Son of God** who was both human and divine. He came to earth to teach us about God and bring a new covenant sealed by his suffering, death, and resurrection.

**We believe in one God in three persons—** Father, Son, Holy Spirit. One Holy Trinity that participates in our lives and sustains us. God wants an up-close, personal relationship with each one of us.

**We believe that we are saved by GRACE, the unconditional love of God** offered to us as a gift through the death and resurrection of Christ. Our sins and wrongdoings are forgiven because Christ gave his life for us. We are restored to relationship with God in Christ, and we are sustained everyday by the Holy Spirit.

**We have free will.** The gift of faith in Christ is offered, and we choose whether to accept it. God's love is not forced on us . . . We are awakened to our sinful nature by the Holy Spirit, but we must choose to accept Christ as God's Son.

**We are made new creations** in Christ. Baptism is the outward sign of an inward change and our willingness to change our lives.

**We practice spiritual disciplines** to grow closer, stronger, and more connected to Christ. We participate in the means of grace by living the three general rules (*see page 5*).

- **WORKS OF PIETY** that help us grow more Christ-like:
  - ◇ Individually by reading, meditating, and studying the scriptures; regularly attending worship; praying; fasting; healthy living; and sharing our faith with others.
  - ◇ In Community by regularly sharing communion, Christian conferencing to hold each other accountable, and Bible study.
- **WORKS OF MERCY** help us share our love of Christ with others:
  - ◇ Individually by doing good works, visiting the sick, visiting those in prison, feeding the hungry, and giving generously to the needs of others.
  - ◇ In Community by seeking justice, ending oppression and discrimination, and addressing the needs of the poor.

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## Our Mission

**To make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.**

### UMC Areas of Focus

- Engaging in ministry with the poor
- Improving global health
- Developing principled Christian leaders
- Creating new and renewed congregations

For more information about the United Methodist Church and our connection go to [www.ngumc.org](http://www.ngumc.org) and [www.umc.org](http://www.umc.org)

# John Wesley's Three General Rules

Since our beginning, Methodists have held each other accountable for practicing the general rules. I call them the “rules of engagement” with others every day so we grow in the likeness of Christ.

In 1743, John Wesley, the founder of Methodism, established the three general rules as a “guide to the way of discipleship that leads ultimately to ‘having the mind of Christ.’”

1. **DO NO HARM** to others in our thoughts, words, and actions. This first rule challenges us to be kind and just in all our dealings with others. We commit to protecting the vulnerable and speaking up for the least of these.



We Are God's People Connected:  
A Focus on Global Health

## NORTH GEORGIA ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The North Georgia Annual Conference will meet June 16-19 at The Classic Center in Athens, Georgia. Attending will be **Rev. Elizabeth Ackerman**, **Rev. Mary Edith Kirkland**, Marvin Delegate **Leslie Wright**, Augusta District Delegates At-Large **Mary Boothe**, and **Forest Kirkland** (youth). **Cheryl LaValley** will be commissioned as a missionary of the North Georgia Annual Conference during that week.

The ministry emphasis this year will be global health and supporting the *Imagine No Malaria* campaign. Marvin has a goal of donating \$1,000 to the effort through our offerings.

2. **DO GOOD** follows our commitment to cause no harm to others because it is the next natural step for followers of Christ: To serve, share, and protect all of God's creation doing all the good we can.

3. **OBEY THE ORDINANCES OF GOD** requires us to grow through the means of grace—worship, prayer, Holy Communion, studying the Scriptures, and fasting.

We participate in the means of grace by following the general rules and holding each other accountable for Christ-like behavior.

In the Wesleyan tradition we must personally practice these rules. Then our task is to guide others along the way of discipleship. We must equip ourselves to help others because we know the pitfalls, having travelled it ourselves. In that way, we in turn help others avoid the pitfalls and think through their commitment to grow in Christ.

Based on the work of Steve Manskar, accessed at [www.umcdiscipleship.org](http://www.umcdiscipleship.org), March 24, 2015.



The United Methodist Church's top legislative body will meet at the Oregon Convention Center, the largest convention center in the Pacific Northwest, on May 10-20, 2016.

General Conference is the top policy-making body of The United Methodist Church which meets once every four years. The conference can revise church law as well as adopt resolutions on current moral, social, public policy, and economic issues. It also approves plans and budgets for church-wide programs.

# Marvinites: Faithful Servants

**Marvin Women** continue to crochet blankets, shawls, and squares for anyone needing their prayers and the love of Christ. Whether donating to veterans in honor of Veterans' Day or loving on a friend, the women pray over and bless their unique, colorful creations. We have now added delicate blankets for premature infants.

The women are expanding their hours for the **Clothes Closet** to include Wednesday evenings, 4-7 p.m., to better serve working parents.



Children and youth participate in study on Sunday mornings at 9:45 and Wednesday nights at 6:30. Recreational activities give time for socializing and learning teamwork.

## PEOPLE OF HOPE

# Class of 2015: Full of God-Given Talent

### FOREST KIRKLAND

He loves to play the piano and gladly shares his talent with this community. As drummer in the newly formed Christian band, Forest sustains us with the



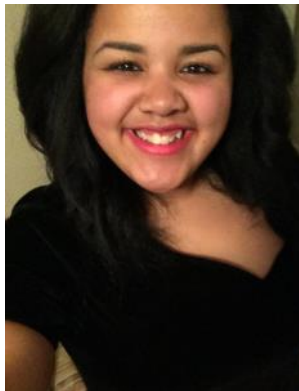
beat of his enthusiasm and keeps us guessing with his chameleon appearance, from bearded with long hair to clean-shaven with a tie. He leads children in a game of basketball or touch football or in shooting some pool. We know Forest is in the house when we see his Ford Explorer. Forest, a drummer in the Harlem

High marching band, plans to attend Georgia Regents University (GRU) to major in music.

### ALEIA RINGEL

After spending last summer in Honduras volunteering for River of Life and attending the Youth Theological Initiative at Emory University, Aleia has found the routine of senior year confining. So she leads the Evans High Debate Team as its president, performs with the Step Team, and sings in the chorus.

She is also completing her fifth year of Spanish, which happens to be one of her three Advanced Placement classes. To round out her experience at Marvin, she has been asked to sing and preach. She will attend Oxford College of Emory University with plans to become a bilingual surgeon.



### RACHEL COX

Rachel is fairly new to Marvin; her mother and sister are enthusiastic volunteers. She's had 10 years of dance, including ballet, tap, jazz, and clogging, and has played the bass clarinet for Greenbrier High's marching band. She's also volunteered with Camp All Stars and Special Olympics. This spring Rachel, a member of NTHS, tied for second place in the regional HO-SA-Future Health Professionals competition for physical therapy and was among the top 15 statewide. She can also hunt and fish with the best of 'em. Rachel plans to major in pre-physical therapy at GRU.



### ISHMAEL EWING



This quiet, reserved mathematician plans to become an engineer after graduating from A.R. Johnson Health and Engineering Magnet High School, where he has been on the honor roll throughout his senior year. With plans to continue his education at Armstrong Col-

lege in Savannah, Ishmael is steadfast. But there is a lighter side to him that emerges each summer when he volunteers for Vacation Bible School. He dons crazy costumes that bring laughter. He can be quiet or playful, but his commanding voice gains respect. He even brings a smile to Rev. Ackerman's face with the greeting, "How's my favorite pastor?" Intelligence, trustworthiness, maturity, and discipline have all shaped Ishmael into a remarkable person.

# April @ Marvin United Methodist

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
<b>29</b> 9:45 Sunday School 11 Palm/Passion Sunday	<b>30</b> 9:30 UMW mtg 2 Sr. line dancing	<b>31</b> 10 Hebrews Study (women)	<b>1</b> 2 Sr. Exercise NO Wednesday Dinner 7 Choir Practice	<b>2</b> 5:30 Maundy Thursday Dinner	<b>3</b> 4-7 Passion Play	<b>4</b> 10 Easter Egg Hunt
<b>5</b> EASTER SUNDAY 7 Worship 11 Worship	<b>6</b> 4 Girl Scouts 6 UMM mtg	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>FAMILY PROMISE WEEK</b>						
8:45 Worship 9:45 Sunday School 11 Worship	4 Girl Scouts 6 Romans Study (men)	10 Hebrews Study (women)	2 Sr. Exercise 6 Dinner		2 Sr. Exercise	
<b>19</b> 8:45 Worship 9:45 Sunday School 11 Worship	<b>20</b> 6 Romans Study (men)	<b>21</b> 10 Hebrews Study (women)	<b>22</b> 2 Sr. Exercise 5:30 Dinner 6 Prayer & Praise 7 Choir Practice	<b>23</b>	<b>25</b> 2 Sr. Exercise	<b>25</b>
<b>26</b> 8:45 Worship 9:45 Sunday School 11 Worship	<b>27</b> 6 Romans Study (men)	<b>28</b> 10 Hebrews Study (women)	<b>29</b> 2 Sr. Exercise 5:30 Dinner 6 Prayer & Praise 7 Choir Practice	<b>30</b>		

## Holy Week

Sunday, March 29	Palm & Passion Worship, one service 11 am, <i>Seven Last Words</i>
Thursday, April 2	Maundy Thursday Dinner, 5:30 pm ... Footwashing service
Friday, April 3	Passion Play on Lawn, 4-7 pm ... Preparation 3 pm
Saturday, April 4	Holy Saturday, 10-Noon, Easter Egg Hunt
Sunday, April 5	Sunrise Service, 7 am in Prayer Garden (with Communion) Community Breakfast, 8 am Sunday School, 9:45 am Worship with Baptisms, Confirmation, and Communion, 11 am