



Marvin United Methodist Church

Prayer & Praise

December 2014 Vol 1, Issue 3

Social Media

By Katie Cox

Facebook and Instagram are two of the main forms of social media. Social media help us to communicate with other people, no matter where they are. They allow us to share pictures and information and digitally invite them to events.

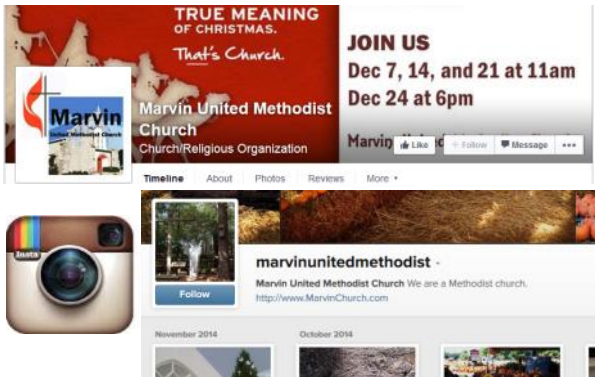
Both **Facebook** and **Instagram** can be for personal or business use and can help us to tell people who we are and what we believe.

Facebook, which was started by social media guru Mark Zuckerberg and his friends when they were at Harvard University, is now more for older adults, according to the website BusinessInsider.com. According to another website, MarketingLand.com, teens are leaving Facebook. So where have they gone? Mostly Instagram, **Twitter**, and **Pinterest**.

For people who are business oriented, **LinkedIn** is another good site.

Marvin Church is working to become more visible in the online community with a new Facebook page managed by Nadine Odo and an

Instagram account that I manage. Marvin also has a Facebook Group page that Bob Eash started several years ago. He also handles the main website at www.MarvinChurch.com. In the future, Rev. Elizabeth Ackerman will be building her LinkedIn profile.



Through these online communities, we are working to tell people who we are (a loving and diverse family church) and what we do, from the famous Pumpkin Patch to serving wounded veterans to our missions abroad.

You can help us to spread the word by liking our Facebook page and sharing our Facebook posts, following us on Instagram, and, when Pastor Ackerman's LinkedIn profile is ready, by liking and sharing her posts.

"To the weak I became weak, to win the weak. I have become all things to all men so that by all possible means I might save some."

1 Corinthians 9:22 NIV



Bigger Than Any One of Us

This time of year we can get caught up in ourselves and our wants. Children make their lists for Santa Claus while adults make lists of their sizes assuring no need for after-Christmas returns.

Christmas should mean more than that to us as Christians. We can get pulled into the buy-spend hype of commercialized Christmas and lose sight of Immanuel (God with us). I wonder, What does Jesus want for Christmas?

He has a list thousands of years old. His mother Mary in her song of praise and thanksgiving foretells her child as one who will “lift up the lowly” (Luke 1:52). Jesus came to save us all with special concern for the poor, sick, homeless, naked, widows, orphans, and those without voice in society.

This season we should look outside ourselves and join other United Methodists to respond to the needs of God’s people.

Family Promise (formerly Interfaith Hospitality) provides gift cards to the homeless year-round. Donate \$10 or \$20 gift cards for gas, groceries, or stores such as Walmart and Target.

Imagine No Malaria by donating your loose change (or checks) to help our children with their mission to the world.

The UMC response to **Ebola** comes through UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief) working in collaboration with the our General Board of Global Ministries. Providing educational programs, protective equipment, and other supplies to health boards in Sierra Leone, Liberia, and Côte d’Ivoire.

As we dash, deck, and check this season, let us not forget whose we are.

“Bear one another’s burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of 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

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

PEOPLE OF HOPE

Ken & Marilyn: Together in Praise

He holds the 12-foot ladder while she climbs to hang Christmas wreaths. She paints children's faces wearing a butterfly costume while he wears a muscle-man costume to work security.

Ken and Marilyn Hedrick enjoy serving at Marvin. They serve faithfully and worship enthusiastically. They have been enmeshed in the life of the church for 13 years. If there is any way their busy work schedules allow, Ken and Marilyn will do it.

He has chaired the Finance Committee for three years while she has chaired the Worship Committee for at least five years. Together they encouraged Marvin to form a Praise Team for the 11 am worship. Then they stepped up and joined the group along with guitarist José Cuyar, who moved to Savannah this past spring.



Together they come early and stay late whether practicing music, decorating the sanctuary, or meeting with their committees.

It's a family affair. "Family is important to us," says Marilyn. "We invite our family and friends to attend church and special programs. They show up because family time really matters to us."

Brother Will Cruz runs the sound system at the 11 am worship. Cousin Rose Hursman plays keyboard for the Praise Team. Marilyn's sister Ada and her husband David Brownson also attend Marvin, and they join Ken and Marilyn on family getaways.

Their daughters found Marvin. The Hedricks followed their daughters to Marvin in 2000. The teenagers were drawn to the active youth group. After their daughters went away to college, Marilyn and Ken continued to support the River of Life youth mission trip each summer and the Emmaus/Chrysalis community at Marvin.

Work hard, play hard together. After 31 years of marriage they still enjoy ballroom dancing and vacationing together. Whether kayaking with the manatees, swimming with the dolphins, or tanning on the beach with the Brownsons, Marilyn and Ken live life to the fullest, together.

"Sing to the Lord a new song; sing God's praise in the assembly of the faithful! Let them praise God's name with dance; let them sing God's praise with the drum and lyre!" Psalm 149:1, 3 CEB





SHARING THE
GREATEST GIFT
OF ALL.

That's Church.

Warriors in Transition

December 8, 6 pm



Marvin transforms its gym into a home away from home for our nation's Warriors in Transition. The soldiers and their families spend the evening eating and being entertained.

All ages participate in this annual event. Marvin's veterans wear emblems of their branch of service and exchange stories with the warriors. The Girl Scouts and Marvin Kids serve as the wait staff. The Evans High JROTC color guard and drill team open the evening with precision. Then it's time for a good home-cooked meal served with a smile, friendly conversation, and music.

After dinner it's time to relax with line dancing or coloring or conversation. There's plenty of laughter and promises to do it again next year.

The Lydia Project

December 14, 5 pm

This holiday season Marvin supports women with cancer through the Lydia Project. This Augusta-based program encourages women during cancer treatment with gift bags, notes, prayers, and a place for out-of-town guests to live during treatment.

For the second year, Marvin will be a location for the community to support the lighting of luminaries in the name of a cancer patient. This year we will have a brief program with music on the lawn. The community is invited to buy luminaries for \$1 each, make a tax-deductible donation to the Lydia Project, and volunteer to help place the luminaries in the shape of a cross on the lawn.

-
- 2:00 Set up luminaries, Credence Praise Band
 - 4:30 Lighting of luminaries
 - 5:00 Candlelight Remembrance Service
 - 7:00 Extinguishing of luminaries

Igniting Young Adults

Starts December 6, 6 pm

Generation after generation has grown to love Jesus Christ in the faith community named Marvin. It is time once again to make room for the emerging leaders from a new generation.

If you are between the ages of 18 and 35, married or single, male or female, with children or without children, there is a new thing about to happen at Marvin. This is your time to cast a vision for love of God, relationship with others, and service to the world.

We want to attract and connect with those who do not know Jesus Christ, learn and work together, grow up together, and help each other through the ebb and flow of life.

We believe you cannot make the journey alone. The emptiness you feel is distance from your center, Jesus Christ. The confusion you experience is from trying to live without knowing your God-given purpose. The darkness you see is the absence of Christ's light and God's word in your life.

Come experience a new life in fellowship!

Dec. 6 Bowling night, 6 pm

Sundays Young Adult class, 9:45 am
beginning November 30

Bringing Others to Worship

Month of December, 11 am

Advent includes the four Sundays before Christmas. During this time we prepare our hearts to receive Christ again. Instead of checking our lists, decking the halls, and dashing to and fro this holiday season, we are going to rethink the meaning of Christmas and simplify.

How you can reconnect with others.

- * **Call** those with whom we have lost touch
- * **Visit** those who are in the hospital or are homebound
- * **Invite** friends and neighbors to be a part of holiday activities; volunteer to serve, fellowship and pray with us on Wednesday nights; worship with us on Sunday mornings and Christmas Eve (6 pm)
- * **Greet** with a smile anyone you do not know at church events
- * **Welcome** all guests, inviting them to sit with you and telling them about upcoming events and activities
- * **Connect** them with our social media outlets (*see cover story*)
- * **Walk** with guests to locations in the church rather than just pointing the way

Our Advent sermons will support the national advertising campaign of the United Methodist Church to Rethink Church.

Nov. 30 *Checking to Find Peace*, 8:45 and 11 am

Dec. 7 *Decking with Love*, 11 am

Dec. 14 *Dashing to Spread Joy*, 11 am

Dec. 21 *Dashing to Others with Hope*—
“Hope Was Born This Night”
worship in word and song, 11 am

Dec. 24 Finding the True Meaning of
Christmas, *A Family Christmas*—
“The Buzz about Christmas,”
6 pm



Marvinites: Faithful Servants

Mary Eash dons her cowboy hat and moyses around the church looking for missions to do. It's not long before the former chairperson of the Trustees is asked about a social program, Emmaus, or neighborhood service agency. Family Promise (formerly Interfaith Hospitality) runs well at Marvin, thanks to her attention to the details of the week for families counting on us for evening meals and soliciting volunteers to sleep overnight and move belongings.

Chabaz Joseph quietly moves around Marvin but has a constant presence whether serving as an usher, helping with the military or at the Pumpkin Patch, and attending Men's Bible Study. A native of the St. Thomas, Virgin

Kudos & Accolades

Each month, **Carol Ashworth** prepares our church for communion. She has faithfully served since she joined Marvin 3 years ago. She also takes others under her wing to train them to know the liturgical colors for the Christian year, first Sunday at 8:45 and 11 am services, and returning unused bread and grace juice to God and nature (never thrown away).

The dead tree has been removed from the cemetery thanks to the work of our volunteer church crew and tree removers connected with **Ed Leathers** and **Gary Pringle**. We are grateful for their attention to the details.



Mary Eash,
Chabaz Joseph,
Ed Boothe

Islands, this veteran is completing his bachelor's degree. He will serve on the Staff Parish Relations Committee beginning in January 2015.

Ed Boothe will begin serving as the president of the United Methodist Men (UMM) beginning in January. A long-time member of Marvin, Ed serves on the Board of Trustees and has a special interest in the particular impact the church can continue to have on the Martinez community. Ed has been a favorite teacher of the older elementary level Vacation Bible School students for years. His hats and costumes in keeping with the theme allow the tweens to relax and be themselves as they learn about Christ. They call him Mister Ed.

The 3rd Chili Cook-off winners at the Pumpkin Patch Festival were **Rev. Mary Edith Kirkland** with her venison chili, **Carol Null** (second place) and **Sue McMillan** (third). There was more than enough for the 400+ people who came to be blessed by God's bountiful harvest.

Thanks to **Richard Albert** for serving as UMM president. He is retiring from that position but continues to inspire us to care for soldiers through Warriors in Transition Christmas Dinner, Veterans' Day at the War Veterans Home, and Memorial Day remembrances. Mr. Richard makes the best barbecue pork, hash, and cole slaw dinners to raise funds for special initiatives!

IMAGINE NO MALARIA

Our Faith In Action.



Youth

What's All the Buzz about Malaria?

Our youth and children will open our eyes to the needs for ending this dreadful disease that kills so many children in Africa.

In 2008, The United Methodist Church (UMC) committed to join the global fight against malaria with the "Imagine No Malaria" fundraising campaign. Our children raised enough money to provide 100 mosquito nets in 2010. It is time for us to help with the expanded campaign.

As the humanitarian arm of The UMC, UMCOR is called to cultivate partnerships and implement malaria control programs across Africa. That approach includes:

- * Education, prevention, and treatment programs for affected communities
- * Revitalizing health facilities
- * Supporting hospital and health care human resource development.

Kids Only

Children's Church is all a-buzz with activity for the Advent season. Each Sunday at the 11 am worship, age 5 to 3rd grade leave worship to continue learning about church. Taught by **Wanda Lewis** and a team of volunteers, this hands-on learning experience helps children continue their Christian journey begun at home.

Family Christmas includes the buzz ...

Our youth will write and produce a play that teaches us about malaria and rings in the Christmas spirit at our Christmas Eve worship at 6 pm.

Watch "**Killer in the Dark,**" an hour-long video documentary on YouTube that tells the stories of people affected by malaria. This is a disease that is preventable and Methodists around the world are joining with other organizations to make a difference.

December @ Marvin

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
	1 9:30 UMW mtg 2 Sr. line dancing 4 Girl Scouts 6 UMM mtg	2 10 Women of Christmas Study	3 2 Sr. Exercise 5:15 Dinner 6 Prayer & Praise 7 Choir Practice	4 12 Walton Class Party	5 2 Sr. Exercise 6 Wedding Re- hearsal	6 3 Jacob-Routh Wedding
7 9:45 Sunday School for all ages 11 Worship 12 Abbeville Trip	8 2 Sr. line dancing 3 Set-up for dinner 6 Warriors in Transition Dinner 7:30 Clean-up	9 10 Women of Christmas Study 7 Finance Mtg	10 2 Sr. Exercise 5:15 Dinner 6 Prayer & Praise 7 Choir Practice	11	12 2 Sr. Exercise 7 Messiah in the Old Testament Bible Study	13 5 Choir & Praise Team carpool to Kirklands
14 9:45 Sunday School for all ages 11 Worship 12 Youth Party 5 Lydia Project	15 2 Sr. line dancing 4 Girl Scouts	16	17 2 Sr. Exercise 5:15 Dinner 6 Prayer & Praise 7 Choir Practice	18 12 Boomers & Beyond Potluck	19 2 Sr. Exercise	20 Vacation Bible School 10 am—2 pm Community children invited
21 9:45 Sunday School for all ages 11 Choir Cantata	22	23	24 6 Christmas Eve Family Service— "The Buzz about Christmas"	25 Christmas Day	26 Church Office closed	27
28 9:45 Sunday School for all ages 11 Worship 12:30 Council Mtg	29	30	31	1 New Year's Day		

FINDING THE TRUE MEANING OF CHRISTMAS.
That's Church.

RADICAL HOSPITALITY
Invite family, friends, and your whole household to worship!
Our united worship at 11 am combines word and song to restore
our lives through peace, love, and service.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT
Join us for dinner and conversation in community, 5:30-6:30 pm!
NO dinner Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve