



Marvin United Methodist Church

Prayer & Praise

January 2015

Vol. 2, Issue 1

New Leaders to Write the Vision

Each year at least one-third of the leaders rotates off a committee and new come on. New officers are elected and the plans for the coming year are developed and carried out.

This rotation process helps prevent burnout of leaders and allows for training of emerging leaders. This is vital to the life of a church that must continually grow new leaders.

Growing New Leaders

Leadership is ageless. This means that leaders vary in age and young adults and youth are given an opportunity to learn from their elders.

Joshua learned under Moses. Elisha learned under Elijah. In 2015, Devan Anderson and Tyler Ashley will learn from Marvin's experienced church leaders.

Devan has already begun working with Wayne Hamilton on lawn care. He will officially begin his three-year term as a Trustee this month. Devan also plays the bass

guitar at 11 a.m. worship and helps with children and youth activities on Wednesday nights.

Tyler, for the past two years, faithfully changes the slides at the 11 a.m. worship. Tyler will be the youth representative on the Church Council where he will keep us sensitive to our younger members' needs.

Training Leaders

Leadership training is offered to all churches in the Augusta District. **Sunday, January 25, 2:30-5:30 p.m. at Thomson First UMC**, new and experienced committee members are expected to attend this training event.

Leaders will choose two of these five workshops to attend and learn from experienced church leaders.

Praying for Our Leaders

Officers will be installed on Sunday, January 11, at both worship services.

- * Trustee Chair will be elected by the Board at its first meeting this month.
- * Finance Chair-David Garber
- * Staff Parish Relations Chair-Ed Leathers
- * Marvin Women (UMW) President-Wanda Lewis
- * Marvin Men's Fellowship (UMM)

"Moses' father-in-law said to him, What you are doing isn't good. You will end up totally wearing yourself out, both you and these people who are with you. The work is too difficult for you. You can't do it alone . . . look among all the people for capable persons who respect God."

Exodus 18:18, 21a CEB



Pastor's Ponderings

The work of the church is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. To do this we must connect with others, learn to love God and others, and serve together out of that love.

Methodism spread through its establishment of small groups that met each week to hold each other accountable for growing in relationship with Christ.

There is something about knowing we face each other and commit to “give an account of what we have done or not done to build up the body of Christ and grow in holiness of heart and life” (*UMC Book of Discipline, paragraph 69-72*).

The General Rules have guided Methodists toward “holiness of heart and life” since the beginning. We are once again remembering our heritage and forming small groups that respond to these General Rules:

1. **Do no harm** by avoiding evil of every kind; especially that which is most generally practiced.
2. **Do good** as often as you can to as many as you can.

3. Practice the means of grace including:

- Private and family prayer
- Regular worship attendance
- Bible reading and study
- The Lord’s Supper
- Fasting or abstinence

Following these rules helps us live as Jesus taught us with the greatest commandment, “You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your being, and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it. You must love your neighbor as you love yourself.” (Matthew 22:37-40 CEB)

Includes information from www.gbod.org

Join a Small Group This Week!

- | | |
|-----------------------|----------------------|
| Women’s Bible Study | Men’s Bible Study |
| Prayer & Praise | Youth Group |
| Children’s Ministry | Young Adults |
| Boomers & Beyond | Walton Sunday School |
| Seekers Sunday School | Men’s Fellowship |
| Marvin Women | Military Ministry |
| Messiah in Torah | Emmaus Reunion Group |
| Senior Exercise | Choir or Praise Team |

Watch Over One Another in Love

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5 Things You Should Know About GIVING

By Pat Goodwin, Church Treasurer

Your commitment to giving with the 2015 budget is \$219,000 directed to operation of the church. Until our tithing contributions increase, our mission and outreach are being funded by fundraisers and the generous donations of the community beyond weekly offerings.

Our Goal—To be a Tithing Church. That means the majority of our funding will come from our spiritual growth to giving 10% of our earnings as our offering to God. Here are five helps for your giving.

1. **Give your donations through the church.** This provides for the best financial and accounting record. Checks or online giving both track your giving and provide a monthly accounting statement. Some say, *“It’s okay, I don’t need the credit and it doesn’t matter to me!”* However, recommended church accounting practices encourage us to never make checks out to an individual. The only exception is the Christmas Giving Account collected by the SPRC Chair who divides these offerings among our staff.
2. **Bereavement Fund provides for outreach to our grieving families.** This new account, established in the name of Beverly Gray, will be the depository for undesignated memorial gifts and those designated for that fund.
3. **Memorials and Honorariums can be designated or undesignated donations.** The extravagant generosity of this church community stretches year-round with offerings for UMC connectional giving, memorials and honorariums, special offerings, and immediate outreach to people in need (Good Samaritan Fund). These gifts are also accounted for in our records. If you are offering a special memorial or honorarium let the Church Treasurer know your intent beforehand to assist with record keeping and our acknowledgment of donations.

4. **Donation means you receive nothing in return.** IRS rules specify that donations may be tax deductible if *no* goods or services are received. Two quick examples, money paid for a Wednesday night meal or luminaries for The Lydia Project both provide a good or service. Neither is tax deductible. For tax purposes, give directly to the church, which in turn gives to specified missions, or you may make donation directly to the non-profit organization.
5. **Out-of-the-ordinary donations.** Donations may include weekly offerings, real estate transfers, in-kind items or services, and life insurance policies, to name only a few. This year we received a donation by a transfer of stock funds. This gift from Emily Bauman helped us establish a money market account at the Georgia Methodist Foundation. This account will generate interest and is available to receive additional donations. Gifts are received through the approval of the Board of Trustees.

Pat Goodwin, Church Treasurer, began her leadership at Marvin serving as the Stewardship Team Chair three years ago. She led us to increase the number of people making commitments to giving. Last year she took the position of Church Treasurer with its complex computer system and UMC reporting requirements. We are grateful to Pat for her attentiveness to detail and commitment to keep us on task.

Next month’s article: “The Final Tithe.”



Enjoy the Convenience of ONLINE GIVING

Register at our website, www.MarvinChurch.com

Click **Donate Now**

Complete the form and begin giving by the week or the month and while on vacation

From Marvin to all th

By Ty LaValley

I am Ty LaValley, a commissioned missionary with the General Board of Global Ministries preparing for assignment in West Africa. Beginning in January, I will be the Scout Ministry Coordinator for the United Methodist Church of Côte d'Ivoire (Ivory Coast).

For two weeks I rode my bicycle to raise awareness of this mission. I stopped at 68 churches to pray for their missions and ask that they do the same for me and my new mission.

The Mission's Goal

To use Scouting Ministry as a spiritual formation tool to reach at least 100,000 children, youth, and young adults with the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Training for this new Methodist mission culminated with my commissioning in Quito, Ecuador in November.

How Missions Are Funded

Mission service would not be possible without the support of faithful United Methodist churches. Apportionment dollars and connectional giving support missionaries' salaries and connect the local churches with those of us in the mission fields of the world.

You Can Donate to This Mission

Donate with a one-time gift or each month by using Advance # **3022028** at www.umcmmission.org

About Côte d'Ivoire

- Population 22 million . . . one-third of which are five years old and younger
- The average age is 19 years of age
- The UMC in Côte d'Ivoire is the second fastest growing annual conference in the world with 1.2 million members



Ty LaValley cycled over 500 miles in 11 days to 68 churches getting the word out about his Scouting mission to Côte d'Ivoire.

the World . . .

The Work

This ministry will work with local churches to develop a program of spiritual formation and outreach that respects the local culture and builds capacity within their congregations.

Come help by participating in the mission through **Volunteers in Mission** throughout the year.

Connect with Us and Follow Our Progress

Get involved with global missions by promoting my blog and encouraging people to *like* our Facebook page. These are the best ways to connect on a regular basis. I leave for Africa in January and invite you to connect with me so we can encourage each other.

What You Can Do Personally

- ❑ **Pray for our mission.**
- ❑ **Skype us with your small group.**
Skype: tyrone.lavalley at 912-480-0444
- ❑ **Donate to the mission.**
umcmmission.org—choose *Give to Mission*—type in the name *LaValley, Tyrone* or advance #3022028
- ❑ **Come to Côte d’Ivoire as a mission team.**
- ❑ **Write letters of encouragement.**
- ❑ **Follow us through social media.**
www.facebook.com/unitedmethodistscoutingcotedivoire
www.tyronelavalley.blogspot.com to follow weekly updates
tlavalley@umcmmission.org to receive an electronic newsletter quarterly

“Go out and train everyone you meet, far and near, in this way of life, marking them by baptism in the threefold name: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Then instruct them in the practice of all I have commanded you. I’ll be with you as you do this, day after day after day, right up to the end of the age.” **Matthew 28:19-20** **Msg**

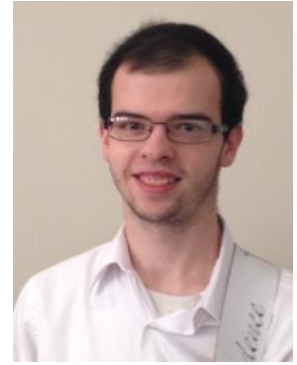
Marvinites: Faithful Servants



Carol Ashworth arrives before everyone on first Sundays. She sets the communion table with fresh bread and goblets of grape juice. The liturgical colors are changed with the season and it all appears effortless thanks to Carol. This smooth transition is

accomplished by Communion Steward Carol Ashworth. She quietly move about preparing and cleaning up after each service with a smile and for the love of the Lord.

Robbie Gross along with Devan Anderson and Forest Kirkland, began their praise band in 2013. In 2014 they named the band Cre-dence. During the year they have led 11:00 worship, entertained at the Pumpkin Patch Festival for the second year, and helped light up the corner for The Lydia Project. These three young men have a vision for sharing Christ through their music. Marvin supports and encourages these young adults in their out-



Beverly Courson for the second year coordinated Marvin's contribution to The Lydia Project Light Up. With a goal of \$1000, a \$300 increase over last year, Beverly moved quickly to collect the money, pick up the luminary kits, and organize us to light 650 candles by dusk dark. This year Beverly added a memorial service that included the naming of cancer survivors and honoring of those who have passed.

Credence, the new praise band organized by Robbie Gross, took center stage and entertained us throughout the lighting event. Concludes Beverly, "We appreciate the volunteer support the entire weekend of preparation."

Holiday Cudos & Accolades



Rae Ann King recognized by Commander for coordinating food for **Warriors in Transition**.



Credence at The Lydia Project: our own Forest Kirkland, Robbie Gross, and Devan Anderson.



Event photos taken by **Bob Pitts**.

PEOPLE OF HOPE

The Thomases: Families Come in all Sizes

By Alex Eash

Vacation Bible School drew this family to Marvin. When the Thomas family relocated from New York, mother Danielle immediately found a church home for the three of them.

That summer was the beginning of a growing relationship that helps them call Marvin their home.

All in the Family

Lélani and Jaylen walked with their mother to church each Sunday. Soon they were coming to Wednesday night dinner and children's activities. Danielle offered her experience in child care to help with children's ministry and nursery.

The more Danielle and the children served the more they were blessed . . . Danielle's driver's license . . . A car . . . A home . . . A new job. The blessings just keep flowing.

Young Servant Leaders

The spirit of serving is not reserved for Danielle. It is contagious spreading through Lélani and Jaylen. They have become leaders with Acolytes, special occasion programs, dramatic productions, missions, Vacation Bible School, and all-around children in service to Christ.

The joy of being with this family is their commitment to serve together. Whether decorating church for Advent or straightening up the nursery after church. They are in it together.



Church "Grandparents"

Danielle and Muriel and David Skelton hit it off right away. They shared a love of children and a willingness to teach and engage children in church. Now, they are family!

The Skeltons are their "church grandparents." They attend all the children's performances . . . Encourage homework and service . . . Share holiday dinners . . . Sleepovers . . . And do all the things grandparents do.



**"Point your kids in the right direction—
when they're old they won't be lost."**

Proverbs 22:6 Msg

January @ Marvin

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
				1 New Year's Day	2	3
4 8:45 Worship 9:45 Sunday School 11 Worship	5 9:30 UMW mtg 2 Sr. line dancing 4 Girl Scouts 6 UMM mtg	6 10 Hebrews Study	7 2 Sr. Exercise 5:30 Dinner 6 Prayer & Praise 7 Choir Practice	8 7 Trustees mtg 7 SPRC mtg	9 2 Sr. Exercise	10
11 8:45 Worship 9:45 Sunday School 11 Worship	12 2 Sr. line dancing	13 10 Hebrews Study 7 Finance Mtg	14 2 Sr. Exercise 5:30 Dinner 6 Prayer & Praise 7 Choir Practice	15	16 2 Sr. Exercise	17
18 8:45 Worship 9:45 Sunday School 11 Worship	19 MLK Jr. Holiday 4 Girl Scouts	20 10 Hebrews Study 5:30 Serving Dinner to Paine College Wesley Foundation	21 2 Sr. Exercise 5:30 Dinner 6 Prayer & Praise 7 Choir Practice	22	23 2 Sr. Exercise	24
25 8:45 Worship 9:45 Sunday School 11 Worship 2:30 Leaders Training, Thompson UMC	26	27 10 Hebrews Study	28 2 Sr. Exercise 5:30 Dinner 6 Prayer & Praise 7 Choir Practice	29	30 2 Sr. Exercise	31 10-2 Church Council Mtg Rethink Church discussion open to all

Wednesday Nights @ Marvin

There's something for everyone on Wednesday night. It's a time for fellowship and togetherness.

5:30-6:30 Dinner

Everyone is invited to eat. First visit is on us. \$6 per person.

6:00-8:00 Campfire Gathering

Children and youth find their way to the gym for recreation followed by bible study.

6:00-7:00 Prayer & Praise

Scripture reading and brief discussion followed by prayer and singing.

7:00-8:00 Choir Practice

Join the choir to sing each Sunday morning at 8:45 worship.