

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
P.O. BOX 669
MARVELL, AR 72366
PERMIT NO. 22

NON PROFIT ORGANIZATION
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Scripture Luke 3:15-17, 21-22
Hymns 98, 64, 57

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Gary Maskell, Pastor THE NEWSLETTER Church 870-829-3178
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"Finished and Unfinished Works!"

[Please keep in mind, **this is the very abbreviated version** of the Sunday sermon and much is missing, so make sure you get the Marvell/Lexa Messenger for the whole Sermon and more!] Matthew 2:1-12!

This Sunday is known on the church calendar as *Epiphany Sunday*. It's the traditional time to remember the journey of the wise men as they followed that miraculous star some 2,000 years ago...it was the star that led them to the one who was born King of the Jews, our Lord Jesus Christ! Every year the Lectionary calendar brings us to this familiar account. Although most nativity scenes show the Magi crowded into the stable of Jesus' birth — along with the shepherds, animals, an angel, Mary, Joseph and the baby — the Magi were almost certainly *later* visitors, coming perhaps as long as two years after Jesus' birth. By that time, Joseph had no doubt found better lodging for his family, which is probably why Matthew says the wise men entered "the house" to find Jesus. But whatever the time and place, these Gentile visitors from the East "knelt down and worshipped him." They finished what they came to do. But Leonardo da Vinci didn't! Over the centuries, various painters have portrayed this visit, but one of the most famous — despite its being unfinished — is da Vinci's *Adoration of the Magi*. Wouldn't it be great if our unfinished projects were also considered very important in their uncompleted states? Imagine all the stuff you could stop working on by simply saying, "It's not finished and now it never will be, but it will be worth a fortune nonetheless!"

Like *that's* going to happen! Right? To start with, not many of us can rival da Vinci in terms of genius and artistry. The lad was talented! But even if we could, do we really want our contributions to the world to be in the form of stuff we started but never got around to completing? Of course that may be too close to the truth for most of us! Hopefully that's not what we're known for, but da Vinci had a reputation as being unreliable at completing commissioned works. While he would devote months to the planning stages of a work, he had no appetite for the actual labor of carrying out the painting itself. This may have been partly due to not getting paid. But the main point is, for whatever reasons, da Vinci never finished the portrayal of the Magi adoring Jesus. The Magi finished their work of adoration; but da Vinci didn't. How about us? Usually, it's not that we don't plan to finish, or even that once into a project, we make a reasoned decision to let the thing go, which sometimes is the better part of wisdom. Rather, with those things we think important to finish, we still have to deal with not having enough time, being tuckered out from life's worries and woes and/or unexpected problems that crop up at the last minute. Sometimes it's almost as if the forces of darkness, or some chaotic random event, is triggered when we're within sight of the starting or finishing line of our plans. But as our faith matures, one of the signs is that we come to the realization that the Christian life is not only a matter of initial repentance and commitment, but it's also a matter of perseverance. As Paul told the Galatians, "*So let us not grow weary in doing what is right, for we will reap at harvest time, if we do not give up*" (Galatians 6:9). We must persevere despite the setbacks and bumps in the road of life. Simeon and Anna, the two people in the temple who recognized the presence of God in the infant Jesus, are good examples. Simeon, we're told, had been "*looking forward to the consolation of Israel*" (Luke 2:25). That phrase implies patient waiting. Anna, 84 years old, "*never left the temple but worshiped there with fasting and prayer night and day*" (Luke 2:37). Both signed up for the long haul and both were faithful until the end. Likewise, the apostle Paul modeled such perseverance, writing as he drew near death, "*I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith*" (2 Timothy 4:7). His words, of course, refer to more than simply completing a mission project or seeking more holiness in living; they refer to the completion of a whole life of discipleship. But how do we attain a life of discipleship other than by completing the "*faith projects*" along the way? The life of faith is not a 100-yard dash; it's a marathon!

We're at the start of a new year and that means it's a good time to think about the faith-projects that God has laid upon our hearts. So let me ask you some questions, - What's the faith project you are struggling with? - What's the next step in that project? - What's keeping you from taking that step? - What has God called you to do that is suddenly seeming to fall apart? - What negative comments need to be ignored? - What hindrances are really indicators that you are on the right track? - What last-stage problems are reminders to call afresh on God?

As you consider these questions, know with a certainty that when God calls us to a task, he gives us his help to *finish* it. Someone has said: *One* sign of God is that we are led to undertake a task that we did not intend to do. *Another* sign of God is that we are trusting to seek God's help to take the task to completion.

Take the blessing the God has given you, let it grow in your life and then use it to be a blessing to someone this year! So remember always that you have been blessed to be a blessing. So be one! *Brother Gary*

Calendar for the Week

Wednesday

9:00 a.m. Exercise
5:00 p.m. Youth/WOW

Thursday

10:00 a.m. Classics
4:00 p.m. Open House for City Officials
5:00 p.m. Exercise

Friday

9:00 a.m. Exercise

Sunday

9:00 a.m. Lexa Worship
9:55 a.m. Marvell SS
11:00 a.m. Marvell Worship
2:00 p.m. Baby Shower for Anna Davison

Sunday

4:30 p.m. Luke Bible Study

Monday

9:00 a.m. Exercise
5:00 p.m. Exercise

Tuesday

5:00 p.m. Exercise

Greeter - Bryan Wayman

Liturgist - Debbie Hayes

Acolytes - Kailin Hollaway/Wesley Turner

Youth SS - Matthew Lambert

Nursery - Mickie Cox

STEWARDSHIP REPORT

2018 Budget	\$178,908
Needed each week	3,441
Received for Dec 31	4,550
Received for Jan 6	4,548
Capital Improvements	45
World Hunger	20
Food Pantry	25
Prison Ministry	20
Children's Time	450

ATTENDANCE

Lexa Worship	7
Marvell Sunday School	49
Marvell Worship	93
Bible Study	13

UNITED METHODIST MEN'S BREAKFAST

The UMM Breakfast will be Sunday at 7 a.m.; cooks are Shelton Guest, Mike Woodyard & Richard Wooten. All men are invited.

PRAYER REQUESTS

Boby Von Kanel - 3133 Phillips 600, Marvell
Clara Bass - 2975 Shelton Rd N, Bee Branch 72013
John Armstrong - Box 265, Balmorhea, TX 79718
Corporal Clayton McWilliams - UAMS, 4301 W
Markham, LR 72205
Johnny Gschwend - Box 425, Marvell
Mike Wilke - 201 Ridgemont, Helena 72342
Cheryl Griffin - Jonesboro
Jimmie Ruth Taylor - Bryant
Ken & Ruth Helen Eddleman - 8295 Pine Valley
Lane, Germantown, TN 38139
Jim Young - 3156 Hwy 316 N, Lexa 72355
Jimmy Allen - 2800 N Vine, Magnolia 71753
Kyle Haynes - deployed
Courtney Turner - Box 1602, Marvell
Carrie Davison - Box 711, Marvell
Phyllis Stiedle - 2802 Hwy 49, WH 72390
Kaitlyn Johnson - Cindy Clemons sister
Allie Coleman - Stuttgart
Elizabeth Jones - 1151 Hwy 1 N, Lexa 72355
Drew Perkins - Memphis
Mark & Alexis Stringer & unborn baby - 1307
Carmichael St, Malvern 72104
Cathy Sands - Opelika, AL
(Eugene & Ned Young's sister)
Candy Bryant - 520 Dogwood Ranch Circle Rd,
Byhalia, MS 38611
Cora Blair - Crestpark, Helena
AB Thompson - 630 Hwy 243 Spur, Marvell
Jackie Fitch - 245 PC 251, Lexa 72355
Gloria Treadaway - Box 22, Lexa 72355
Gene Pate - Dallas, TX Melissa Maskell's uncle
Shelley Bonin - Benton - Melissa Maskell's aunt
Ian Miller - 36 Fontwell Ln, Franklin, TN 37064
Ronnie Isbell - Springfield, MO
Paul Steiner - Box 505, Marvell
Ashley Bobo - Box 2, Helena 72342
(13 year old with Hodgins Lymphoma)
Floyd McKee - 108 SW 98th St, OK City, OK 73139
Charlotte Wayman - 114 PC 328, Helena 72342
Jan Hickey & Paula Oliver - 1039 Park Hill, Helena
Sylvia Griffin - 403 Happy Circle, Hot Springs 71913
Harold Cummings-95 Rocky Top Rd, Mayflower 72106
Mildred Clatworthy - 11547 Hwy 316 S, Marvell
Mary Leggett - Box 561, Marvell (LA Lammers mom)
Elizabeth Aycock - 1254 CR 1750, London, AR
72847 (Louis Aycock's niece)
Gloria Higginbotham - 16175 Hwy 49, Marvell
Enicita Cantilang - %Rhea Cumberland - Box 32
Jason Webb - 3109 NE 66th Terrace, Gladstone, MO
Becca Campbell - 1015 Lancelot, Russellville 72801
Hubert Smith - 1415 Main #12, Marvell
Misty Russell -
Jerry Robertson - 2061 Hwy 242 W, Lexa 72355
Frankie Broom - Crestpark #128, 116 November Dr
Vern Hamelback - %Ruby J. Turner - Box 163, Lexa
Sherry Tuminello - 1204 E 19th St, Stuttgart 72160
Delores Jackson - Box 13, Marvell
Elizabeth Jones - 1151 Hwy 1 N, Lexa 72355
Jody Cook - 6253 Basilone St, Tarawa Terrace, NC
Doris Wallace - 301 N Pine, Marvell
Alan Wildschuetz - 5 Bear Trail Cove, LR 72210
Velma Howell - 609 Phillips 139, Marvell
Louis Aycock - 297 Phillips 367, Poplar Grove 72374
Billy Moore - 2371 Phillips 625, Marvell
Kevin Forrester- 1565 N State Hwy 8, New Boston, TX
Ruby Jean Turner - Box 163, Lexa 72355
Opal Muscalino - Box 8, Lexa 72355

MEMORIALS

GINGER HALL

Chris, Kortni & Paisli Carroll
Randy & Tammy Catlett
Mickie & Jacob Cox
Chris, Niki & Fritz Hall
Bruce & Debbie Hayes
Bill & Connie Heidelberger
Donald Ray & Barbie Washburn

SHEILA KEMMER

Shelton & Nina Guest
Bill & Connie Heidelberger

YOUTH/WOW

Youth & Wow will meet Wednesday, January 9, at 5 p.m. Invite a friend!!

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

The UMW will meet Sunday, January 20, at noon. Bring your lunch & your Blessing Jars. All ladies are invited.

ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL

The Administrative Council will meet Sunday, January 20, at 6 p.m. If you are on a committee in the church you are a member of the Council.

PRAYER REQUESTS CONTINUED

Janette Griffin - Box 126, Lexa 72355
Jennifer Heavner - 209 W Ash St, Brinkley 72029
Lee Scarbrough - Uganda
Landon Jones - 5460 Fox Den, Hernando, MS 38632
Sandra Myton - Box 103, Marvell
The Family of Glen Wilson - Marvell
The Family of Tommy McMillan - 300 N Pine,
Marvell (Leslie Reed's dad)
The Family of Otis Howe - Little Rock
The Family of Johnny Taylor
The Family of Cathy Sands - Opelika, AL
(Eugene, Jim & Ned Young's niece)

PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING

Leah, Maya & Eli Polk & Katherine & Sadie are better & back in church
Scott Warren's surgery was a success
Jan Hickey finished treatments & rang the bell
Kim Lambert is a homeowner
Bettie Davison's friend's grandbaby was born & ok
Scott Russell spoke at DeWitt & Winston Turner spoke at West Helena
Children's Time Kids donated \$450 to the church

VISITORS

Charles Harris - Barton
Tammy Thompson
Josh Huffman

BIRTHDAYS

Jan 10 - Pat Meek
12 - Rob Davison
13 - Joey Cumberland
14 - Glen Hosey
Chuck Schaffhauser
Charlotte Wayman
Joey Williams
Shiloh Williams

DINNER THEATER

The Annual Marvell Dinner Theater will be February 15 & 16; tickets are \$30. Let Barbie or Nina know if you can help & if you want tickets.

**Let's get ready for Drew Hunter!
You are cordially invited to a
Baby Shower
for Anna Davison
Sunday, January 13 at 2 p.m.
Marvell UMC**

**Meet & Greet for
Mayor Lee Guest, Recorder/Treasurer Aletha Gibbs
City Council Larry Denson, Pace Hindsley, Verlene McCall,
Curtis Pettie, Leroy Powell & Richard Wooten
Police Chief Bennie Daniels
Thursday, January 10, 4 - 6 p.m.
Fire Training Room/Courtroom
across from City Hall**

THANKS

Greeter - Toney Keys, Bryan Wayman	Acolytes - London Boone/Kailey Hollaway
Liturgist - Debbie Hayes	Musician - Courtney Turner
Media Techs - Chuck Schaffhauser, Thomas Turner	SS Teachers - Bryan Wayman
Video Tech - Wesley Turner	Children's Time Prayer - Casher, Hailee, Sadie
Ushers - Kevin Davison, Bill Heidelberger, Toney Keys, Frank Polk	Nursery - Delia Travis, Connie Heidelberger, Beth Schaffhauser, Joseph Cumberland
Communion - Patti Kemmer, Melanie Keys, Brooklinn King, Kimberly Lambert, Courtney Turner, Mickie Cox & Adult SS Class	Children's Time book - Emily Johnson
Taking Christmas decorations down - Leigh Ann & Macleigh Guest, Shelton & Nina Guest, Donald Ray Washburn, Bryan & Charlotte Wayman	Song Leader - Emily Johnson
	Sign - Mickie Cox

Dear Church Family,

We would like to thank each of you for your love and support during this time. My mother loved the church so much & it brought her great joy. We cannot express how grateful we are for each of you; the service was a beautiful tribute, the choir sang beautifully, & feeding our family was so kind. Again, thank you all for everything.

Sincerely, Regan Sellers, Glenn Hall & family

Thank you so much to everyone at Marvell UMC. It was & still is such a shock to learn of Ginger's death. We all know she is with our Savior & at rest, but we still miss her. You were all so kind & helpful to all of us & we deeply appreciate it. With love, Janice & Roger Dale & family

2018 CHURCH ATTENDANCE

52 Sundays - London Boone, Nina Guest, Kailin Hollaway, Gary Maskell
51 Sundays - Shelton Guest
50 Sundays - Bettie Davison, Wesley Turner, Bobby Von Kanel
49 Sundays - Jimmy Davison, Debbie Hayes, Kailey Hollaway, Lauren Turner, Thomas Turner, Barbie Washburn
48 Sundays - Joseph Cumberland, Bobby Dubach, Bill Heidelberger
47 Sundays - Joey Cumberland, Jody Lambert, Chuck Schaffhauser, Mike Woodyard
46 Sundays - Courtney Turner, Winston Turner, Donald Ray Washburn
45 Sundays - Mary Henderson, Delia Travis
44 Sundays - Lisa Fuller, Bruce Hayes, Connie Heidelberger, Glen Hosey
43 Sundays - Lannie Travis
42 Sundays - Katharine Harris, Deb Hosey, Beth Schaffhauser, Brianne White
41 Sundays - Zoey Cumberland, Scott Russell, Richard Wooten