

A New Year, New Times

There is familiar comfort as well as unknown challenges as we make another lap around the sun. As we begin lap 2018 AD we know that, even though we experience Him in new ways, God is the same anytime and in all circumstances.

Here are a couple of thanks and ways to help:

1. Thank you for your generous gifts shared with staff during the Christmas season. Your generosity is encouraging and appreciated.
2. Thank you for your special additional gifts toward drilling a water well in Kenya. You have given over \$14,000!
3. We finished 2017 with a rather sudden shortfall in gifts to budget. This resulted in total 2017 expenditures exceeding total gifts by about \$18,000. If your giving fell behind in 2017, now would be a good time to catch up.
4. Preliminary estimates project total income for 2018 \$10,000 less than 2017. If you have not yet turned in a 2018 giving estimate, please do so soon. Your participation will help build an accurate and dependable budget. The "Make a Difference" brochures and estimate forms are available through the office and in the foyer. Contact Pat at the church, 405-789-9033, and we will send you information.

St Mark's ARISE! continues to seek God's ministry opportunities in our community and these times. Please pray for our leaders who are actively and prayerfully involved in this process. You are welcome to join in the fun. The next gathering will be January 21 at 5:30. Barnett Hall. Dinner is included.

Step faithfully and hopefully into God's future.

Your brother in Christ,

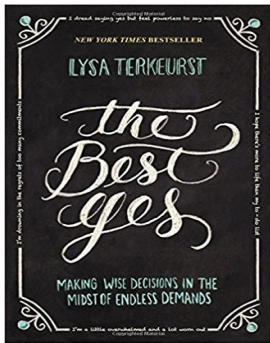
Pastor Keith

He (Christ) is before all things, and in him all things hold together. Colossians 1:17 (NIV)



St. Mark's Women's Bible Study

The Women's Bible study group will not meet in December. The next meeting for the Women's Bible Study will be on January 5th. It will kick off at 6:00 pm with



a covered dish at the home of Emily Hollon. We will be starting a new study "The Best Yes" by Lysa Terkeurst. You are encouraged to join this group of

women seeking to grow in Christ and in fellowship with one another. For more information contact Kayla Gannon.



Second Winders will meet (weather permitting) on Thursday, January 11th for a covered dish meal at noon.

After lunch we will play bingo. No charge this month. There is no trip planned for January.



Dinner On Wednesday Night

Every Wednesday's from 5:30-6:15
Great place to get fed and fellowship before programming. Everyone welcome.
Cost is only \$2. a person.

Tonight! Soups



We will be doing a men's breakfast and looking at the a series called Wild Life with John Eldredge starting Saturday, January 13. We have plans to meet January 13, 27, February 10 & 24. We will have breakfast at 8, and should be finished around 9:15. There is no cost for the study, but donations taken to cover breakfast costs. Contact Brad Cromwell for more information.

"So prepare your minds for action and exercise self-control. Put all your hope in the gracious salvation that will come to you when Jesus Christ is revealed to the world." 1 Peter 1:13



Kings & Queens kicks off 2018 with it's first respite care on Friday, January 12th. Pray for God to continue to work through this ministry. As the program continues to grow so does the need for volunteers. Contact Amanda Peters if you would like to join the team.

St. Mark's Leadership
January 1, 2018 - December 31, 2020
Church Council

Chair	Monte Tull
Lay Leader	Chris Teague
Lay Member of Annual Conference	Sally Kilby
SPRC Chair	Steve Couch
Hospitality & Outreach SHIFT team leader	Dorothy Lynch
Mission & Service SHIFT team leader	TBD
Discipleship & Formation SHIFT team leader	Joey Pedigo

Committees	2018	2019	2020
Trustees	Miller Gerardy	Dot Lyon	Ruby Wilkey
Finance	Terry Pope	Gerald Miller	Bernadette Bishop

Pastor: Keith Cressman

Additional areas of service not on Church Council

Committee on Lay Leadership

Chair: Keith Cressman

2018	2019	2020
Gwen Sears	Emily Hollon	Rod Sipes
Stacey Miller	Darlene Hickman	Kayla Gannon
Ben Longoria	Carla Brueggen	Beverly Ray

Staff Parish Relations Committee

Chair: Jim McMinn

2018	2019	2020
Kevin Moore	Randy Reed	Becky Chessmore
Kathy Hamilton	Steve Couch	Susan Teague
Jim McMinn	Matt Risinger	Lorna Garner



Hello Arisers!

Thanks for helping discern the **present** ministry opportunities and begin to chart a path for St. Mark's **future**.

Our next meeting is scheduled for **January 21, 5:30**. The topic is *The Gap*, a discussion of the generations. I look forward to what Mike will be sharing with us. Simple Supper on the 21st will be provided by J & G Sears, the Risingers, the Sipes, and the Teagues. Thanks!

If you are not already involved in ARISE and would like to be a part of shaping the future of St. Mark's please contact Keith or the church office and we will bring you up to date on what all is involved.

Introducing

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- 2) Find St Marks United Methodist Bethany
- 3) Create an account
- 4) Donate



**Adult Sunday School
 Discipleship Classes Schedule**

8:15 am

Room 17 - Sonshine Class

Room 18 - New Life Class

9:30 am

Room 18 - Discipleship Class

Ascent Room - College Age

10:55 am

Room 5 - Promise Class

Room 17 - Faithbuilders Class

Room 19 - R.O.C.K. Class

Choir Room - Good News Class



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY UPDATE

MISSION: St. Mark's Children's Ministry exists to partner with parents to equip, train, and release children to be passionate disciples filled with the heart of Jesus to minister today!

"Let the little children come to Me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these." ~Matthew 19:14



SUNDAY MORNING:

Age Nursery - Kindergarten
Time 9:30 am - 12:00 pm

Age Kindergarten - 4th grade
Time: 9:30 am - 12:00 pm

Beginning January 7, elementary children will be studying EPIPHANY - the unveiling of the incarnate Jesus Christ. We will be exploring different events from the life of Jesus, along with his promise to return again as clues to what our One True God is like and what he has in mind for his people - us.

January 7: Finding/Seeking/Discovering Jesus

January 14: Named/Adopted/Identified through baptism

January 21: Jesus unveiled in miracles

January 28: Jesus unveiled in healings

February 4: Jesus' return

Children ages Kindergarten through 4th grade are invited to attend Sunday school from 9:30-Noon. At 9:30, the main lesson is presented, followed by small group time to apply the lesson to their personal lives. At 11:00, children are taken to the sanctuary to experience integrated worship with the rest of the congregation. After the children's moment is presented, Pastor Keith will then dismiss those children who wish to return to more children's Sunday school with Ms. Alicia, or they are welcome to stay with their parents in service for the remainder of the worship hour.

We value the presence of children in worship with the rest of the congregation, and encourage parents to model worship through singing, tithing, liturgy recitation, prayer, communion, and all parts of Sunday worship. The children will be learning the same topics that Pastor Keith preaches on, so families can go home discussing what they have all learned and will strive to live out in their lives. Blessings to our children and their families!

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY DIRECTOR:

Alicia Schneider
Phone: 789-9033
Email: alicia@stmarksbethany.com

EARLY CHILDHOOD MINISTRY DIRECTOR:

Sharon Hunt
Phone: 789-9033
Email: sharon@stmarksbethany.com

TeamKID

Tonight at TeamKID, we will study how God wants us to be **RESPONSIBLE** in our actions and choices. We will learn that God helps us to be responsible, especially when we know and do what God and others expect us to do. Memory verse is Psalm 139:23 "Search me, God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts." Looking forward to seeing the children back at 6:30 tonight!

~Ms Alicia



STUDENT MINISTRY

I am guessing you are diving head first into all the greatness that is real life after the holiday season. I hope in the midst of the post Advent/Christmas season you are still finding ways to connect and refresh with God. We have a lot of great things coming this month and I want to keep you informed on all our happenings.

Wednesday, January 3rd-This week to get back into our groove we are having a board game night. We will meet from 6:30-8pm. Please have your student bring their favorite game and we will spend the night in fellowship and community. There is also soup this week for dinner. Cost is \$2 and serving time is 5:30-6:15pm. Please let me know if you would like a spot reserved.

Sunday, January 7th-This week we will start Confirmation and I want to encourage you all to pray for our Confirmands and mentors and teachers as we walk through this season.

Winter Retreat- Deadline for sign up is Sunday, January 14th. If you need info please check out our website www.stmarkssm.com. I am really needing some adults to attend this retreat as sponsors. If you are interested please let me know. I am also attaching a form if you need a copy or we have hard copies in the youth room.

Mission Mexico- Our first required team meeting will be Sunday, January 28th at New Covenant UMC. We will gather after church and caravan in the church vans. Lunch will be provided. If you are planning on attending please plan to join us for this meeting. This is for both youth and sponsors, if you are interested in coming as a sponsor and need to know more please feel free to contact me.

If you have any questions or ways I can help serve you better, please feel free to share with me. Thank you!

John Hollon
Youth Pastor



A Program of Prison Fellowship

Thank you to everyone who provided and/or delivered gifts for the Angel Tree ministry. We were able to serve 27 children living in 15 households. Along with the gifts, we also gave the children booklets about hope in Christ and to each household an opportunity to request a free Bible and contact from a local pastor or congregation. Your efforts made a real difference in the lives of the children and their families!

Thank you from the Mission Committee



Facts and Figures

2017 Budget 595,337
 Rec'd toward Operating 12/31/2017 11,651
 Rec'd toward Operating 12/31/2017 548,479
 Expenditures 12/31/2017566,879
 Sunday December 31, 2017
 Worship 202
 Sunday School123

Richard	Bassett	Kathy	Hamilton	Dylan	Reimers
Alice	Bentin	Everly	Hance	Ezra	Riverol
Nick	Brown	Tristan	Hickman	Wesson	Rohlman
Jerry	Calvert	Harrison	Hughes	Ethan	Sandburg
Bravery	Clemenceau	Cody	Hunt	Samuel	Schneider
Steve	Couch	Joy	Imel	Gwen	Sears
Keith	Cressman	Shelley	Meisenburg	Iva	Smith
Letha	Davis	Austin	Miller	Dale	Stafford
Vonnie	Deal	Merrick	Mullin	Maxon	Steel
Jennifer	Fallon	Houston	Norvell	Ella	Stiffler
Joely	Ferguson	Will	Parker	Chris	Teague
Nevaeh	Gannon	Valerie	Pautsch	Beverley	Tully
Kayla	Gannon	Cheryl	Pavelko	Chris	Ulmer
Barbara	Gardner	Mahala	Pershica	Emma Lee	Votaw
Lorna	Garner	Sophia	Preston	Rita	Wurzer
Dale	German	Kim	Preston		

Prayer Box

Don & Fran Nobles	Kason Knutson & family
Bob Rutherford	Don Wonderly
Vic Gammill & family	Cathy Green family
Kieth Ballard	Tiffany Montesano
Betty Miller	Jennafer Marchant
Wyatt Pedigo family	Beverly Clark
Jim Brewer	Genie & Brandon Funk
Becky Horrigan	

St. Mark's

UNITED METHODIST
CHURCH

8140 NW 36th Street

St. Mark's Staff

Keith Cressman, Pastor

Becky Roman, Mission & Music Director

Sharon Hunt, Early Childhood Ministries Director

Alicia Schneider, Children's Minister

Amanda Peters, Kings & Queens Director

John Hollon, Student Minister

Colin McCartney, Mid High Minister

Pat Morford, Administrator, Communications

Christy Kiespert, 8:30 Keyboardist

Kevin & Jackie Swedlow, 9:45 Leaders of Worship

Kaleb Siler, 9:45 Leaders of Worship

Roger Pautsch, 11:00 Organist

Jackie Swedlow, Accountant