



ST. MARK'S BETHANY NEWSLETTER

JOIN US FOR WORSHIP!

Jesus Is -- The Teacher and Prophet

Join us this Sunday for worship as Pastor Randy continues our sermon series, "Who is Jesus and What Does He Want from Me?" with the message, "Jesus is the Teacher and Prophet," drawn from Luke 4:24-37. In this passage, we see Jesus speaking truth with authority--words that both challenge and inspire. Come and hear how His teaching still speaks to our lives today.

We look forward to worshipping with you!

Service times -

The Traditional service will begin at 9:30 am and the Modern service begins at 11:00 am.

For individuals unable to attend in person, we are pleased to offer live streaming for both services.

To watch the live streams, please join us at:

9:30 am Sunday morning 11:00 am Sunday morning

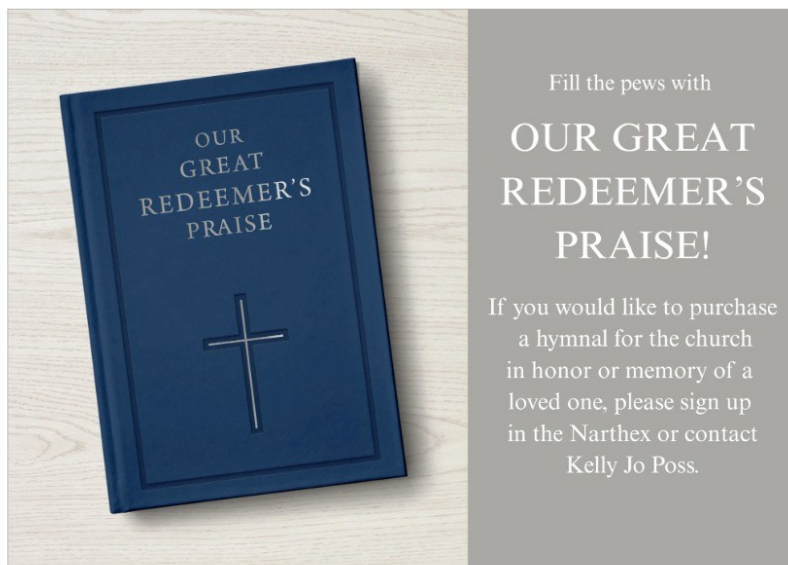


Sunday School Classes

We have classes for all ages and interests

- 8:30 am
 - New Life Rm 18
 - Sonshine Rm 17
- 9:30 am
 - Books of the Bible Rm 17
 - Disciple Class Rm 18
 - Young Adults Rm 5
- 10:45 am
 - Faithbuilders Rm 18
 - Good News Class Choir Room
 - R.O.C.K. Rm 19
 - Understanding God's Word Rm 17

Fill the Pews with Our Great Redeemer's Praise!



Our new GMC hymnal, "Our Great Redeemer's Praise" will enrich our worship for years to come. Each hymnal placed in our pews is not only a tool for worship, but also a lasting reminder of God's goodness and the faithful witness of His people.

You have a special opportunity to participate in this ministry by purchasing a hymnal in honor or in memory of a loved one. A bookplate inside the hymnal will bear their name, serving as a visible tribute that will inspire worshipers for generations.

If you would like to give a hymnal, please sign up in the Narthex or contact Kelly Jo Poss for more information. The cost is \$30. Together, let's fill our pews and lift our voices in praise to the One who is worthy.

STRIVE Annual Fundraiser for St. Mark's Student Ministries

This year marks the 26th anniversary of STRIVE at St. Mark's!

Here's how it works:

- Students will ask the St. Mark's family and friends and members of their families and the community for donations to support St. Mark's fall 2025-26-student camps, retreats, missions and the Jesus University Scholarship fund.
- At the end of the fundraiser, students will participate in an 8-hour workday as a way of saying "Thank You" to the church and the community!
- Each student will have a pledge card and envelope for donors.
- Donations may be either a flat amount or based on the number of hours a student works during the workday.
- Donors complete the pledge cards and keep the receipt.
- **PLEDGE DEADLINE: NOVEMBER 2, 2025**

Your support makes an eternal difference in the lives of our students. Thank you for helping them STRIVE in faith and service.!





Capital Campaign Construction Update Meeting

We hope you'll join us for a Capital Campaign Construction Update Meeting on **Sunday, September 28**, right after the second service. Come hear the latest news on the project and what's ahead. We will have some light snacks available.

Childcare will be available for little ones (five and under). To help us prepare, please sign up through Church Center so we will know how many children to prepare for.

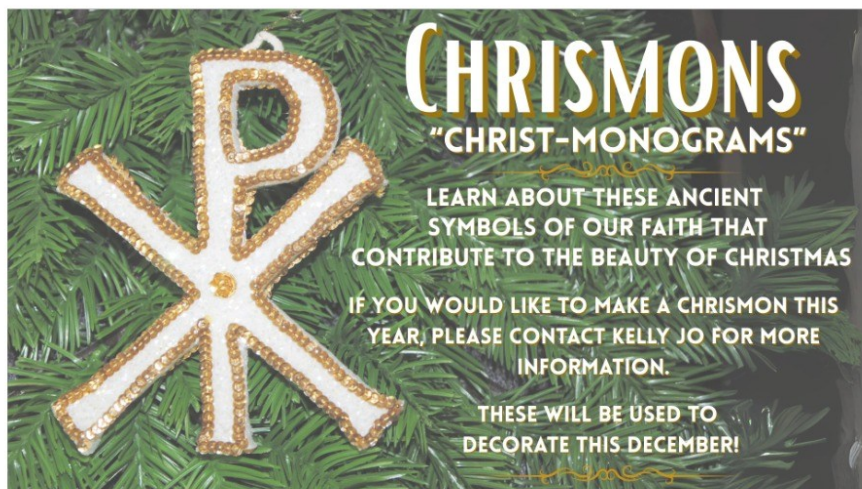
Chrismons - Symbols of Our Faith

This year at St. Mark's, we will be creating a special display of Chrismons (Christ + Monograms) to celebrate the Advent and Christmas season. These white and gold ornaments are crafted in the shapes of Christian symbols--reminders of Christ's presence and promises.

Everyone is invited to take part by making Chrismons at home. Kelly Jo has some templates available. Please see her if you are planning on participating.

All of the ornaments will come together to form a giant Chrismon wreath in the narthex, which will be hung when we decorate for Christmas on November 24th.

This is a wonderful opportunity to use your creativity and help fill our church with meaningful symbols of faith as we prepare to welcome the Christ Child.



Our Local Missions

St. Mark's believes that mission work happens both across the globe and right here at home. ROC and Willow are two incredible ministries that are making a real difference in the lives of individuals and families in our own community.

Through your prayers, service and generosity, we are able to partner with these organizations as they share hope, meet practical needs, and reflect Christ's love in meaningful ways.



Willow Pregnancy Support is grateful for contributions of clothing for newborns to size 6, shoes up to size 13, and diapers in sizes 4, 5, and 6. They also welcome donations of bottles, bath wash, lotion, and Good Start Formula. Your support truly makes a difference—thank you for your generosity!



ROC always appreciates our donations of canned and boxed food. Although they accept other types of contributions, our church focuses on providing food. Right now they especially need canned meats such as tuna or chicken, but any type of canned goods is welcome and appreciated. Please place your food donations in the Grocery Basket located in the narthex! Thank you for helping support this important ministry.

The Sounds of Worship

The melody of
everyday praise

Have you ever paused to listen — really listen — to the world around you?

"Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth; break forth into joyous song and sing praises!" (Psalm 98:4, ESV)

The hum of morning birdsong. The laughter of children. The comforting voice of a friend. Even the quiet moments of stillness. These aren't just background noise — they're invitations to worship.

God designed a world that sings. Worship isn't limited to Sunday mornings or formal songs; it's woven into the everyday moments that tune our hearts to Him. And when we pause to truly hear it, we are drawn into praise, right where we are.

Next time you hear children laughing on the playground, or the creak of pews as people settle in for worship, pause and smile-- God is speaking through even these ordinary sounds.

What sound lifts your heart toward God today? Take a moment to listen. Let it remind you of His love and nearness.

OKC District Gathering with Bishop Jeff Greenway

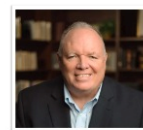
All are invited to a special evening with Bishop Jeff Greenway on Tuesday September 30 at 7:00 pm at Mid-America Christian University.

This is a wonderful opportunity to hear from Bishop Greenway and connect with others across the Oklahoma City District.

OKC District Gathering
with Bishop Jeff Greenway

Tuesday, Sept. 30
7:00pm

Mid-America Christian University
JASCO Chapel in Fozard Hall
3500 SW 119th St.
Oklahoma City, OK 73170



Oklahoma City District
Heartland Conference
Global Methodist Church

Please make plans to attend and be part of this time together.

The Heartland Conference Women's Retreat November 14 & 15, 2025



Mark your calendars for the Heartland Conference Women's Retreat happening November 14-15 at Claremore FMC. The weekend includes teaching, fellowship and encouragement designed to refresh your spirit. Tickets are \$50, with childcare available and hotel options nearby.

Don't wait--registration deadline is October 24 at claremorefmc.org/events.

Men's Bible Study Tuesdays, 7:00 PM

The St. Mark's Men's Fall study, "Unashamed of the Gospel," began on September 16th and is off to a great start. **Please note that the group will not meet on September 30th.** Instead, the men are encouraged to attend the OKC District Gathering, where Bishop Jeff Greenway will be speaking. This is a wonderful opportunity to hear from Bishop Greenway and to connect with others in the district.

Unashamed
of the Gospel

St. Mark's Men's Bible Study

BE A DIFFERENCE MAKER IN KIDMIN!



Our littlest ones need YOU! KidMin is looking for a few high-energy, joy-filled "Difference Makers" to help in the nursery during first hour. We especially need two regular helpers for 1st Sundays and for 3rd Sundays!

This is your chance to make a lasting difference--in the lives of kids and their parents. Contact Lauren Deal or Sharon Hunt!

Arts AND Crafts SHOW

FUN FOR EVERYONE!

OCTOBER 4 ♦ 10-3PM

St Mark's Bethany
8140 NW 36th St

**SEASONAL & HOLIDAY ITEMS, JAMS,
JELLIES, HOUSEHOLD, ANTIQUES
JEWELRY, AND SO MUCH MORE!**

40+ Vendor

LUNCH AVAILABLE IN OUR CAFE
(Pulled Pork Sandwich, Chips, Drink & Brownie for \$10.00)

Exciting Mission Opportunities Ahead

St. Mark's has two incredible mission opportunities coming up, and we would love for you to prayerfully consider joining in.

Mexico City Mission Trip



We are putting together a team for a mission trip to Mexico. The dates are January 15-21. Final costs will be available soon, but we're asking anyone interested to sign up now so that we can begin making plans. This is a wonderful opportunity to serve, grow, and share Christ's love with our neighbors to the south. Please contact Bequer Gomez if you are interested in going!

Kigoma Women's Center Dedication

We are thrilled to announce that the dedication of the Women's Center in Kigoma, Tanzania has been scheduled for June 7, 2026. This will be a meaningful and historic moment for our church family and our partners in ministry there. At this time, details are still coming together.

Please keep both of these mission opportunities in your prayers, and consider whether God might be calling you to be a part of one of these journeys.

Please contact Pastor Randy if you are interested in going on this trip.

OVERHOLSER FALL FEST



St. Mark's is excited to once again partner with Overholser Elementary for their annual Fall Fest on Friday, October 24, from 5:30 – 7:00 pm. This is a tradition our church family looks forward to every year as we share in fun, fellowship and community.

The evening will include free food, games and a festive trunk-or-treat for the kids. It's always a highlight of the season!

We need your help to make it happen! Church members are encouraged to decorate their trunks and join the fun as we bless our neighborhood school. Costumes, creativity and joyful hearts are welcome as we shine the light of Christ in our community.

Building Momentum PICKLEBALL TOURNAMENT



Get ready to serve up some fun at the New Covenant Pickleball Tournament! 🥳🌟 Join us on October 4th from 8 AM to 12 PM at the lively Chicken N Pickle (8400 N Oklahoma Avenue, OKC) for a smashing good time, all while supporting Momentum Campus Ministry!

Don't wait until the last minute—space is limited, and you won't want to miss out on this epic pickleball showdown! 🥒 Rally your friends, polish those paddles, and get ready for a day filled with friendly competition, laughter, and maybe even a little chicken-inspired culinary magic!

Sign up early to secure your spot in the action. It's going to be a pickleball party you won't forget!

Growing Youth, Growing Needs!

Our youth program at St. Mark's is thriving! On Wednesday nights and Sunday mornings, our young people are diving into God's Word, making friends, and growing in faith--and the energy in the room is contagious. With all this growth, we need extra hands and hearts to keep things running smoothly.



From leading games, to helping with snacks, to just being a friendly face, there's a spot for you. You don't have to be a Bible expert, just willing to show up and care. Even an hour of your time can make a difference in the life of a student.



If you've been looking for a way to serve, this is it! Come join us in shaping the next generation of Christ-followers.

Interested? Reach out to Bequer, or stop by the church office and we'll get you plugged in!

Keeping St. Mark's Beautiful

Have you noticed how lovely our church grounds always look? From the neatly trimmed grass to the colorful flower beds, St. Mark's is blessed with volunteers who give their time and care to keep our property looking its best.

Each week, faithful helpers mow the grass, tend to the sprinklers, and care for the flowers that brighten our entrances. Their hard work ensures that when we gather on Sunday mornings, we are greeted by beauty and a sense of welcome.

We want to say a heartfelt **thank you** to all who serve quietly in this way. Your efforts don't go unnoticed -- they reflect God's care and bring joy to everyone who walks through our doors.



Capital Campaign Update from Pastor Randy

The first project of our "Taking Root" campaign has been accomplished. We now have a new roof over the offices and a good portion of the classrooms. This, coupled with the new roof we put on the Family Life Center a couple of years ago, means that a large part of our facility is now covered with roofing that should last for decades. This is a great step forward as it makes little sense to fix the inside unless the structure itself is secure.

We are now moving on to the next, and largest, project of the campaign. We have approved the plans and procedures for the updates to the Family Life Center, Barnett Hall, Lobby and all bathrooms. Jay Sears, who is serving as the construction manager for this part of the project (thank you Jay!), will be giving a thorough update on the project in the Sanctuary after second service. I hope you make it a priority to stay for the presentation. In my opinion, the plans look even better than I had dreamed and I think you will be excited to see what lies in store for the church.

Financially, we are doing well. To date we have received \$838,565 of our \$1.35 million pledged. Normally, a church can expect to receive the fulfillment of the 3-year pledges at 50%, 30%, 20% across three years.

We are already well over 50% and we are only 6 months into our first year! This is very important for us. Since we are committed to not going into debt, we can only move forward as the money is available to do so. So, receiving this much this early is allowing us to move forward more quickly.

Randy



Capital Campaign Update

106 Pledges 1,342,736

Rec'd toward Pledges
9/24/2025 838,565

****St. Mark's Bethany SAFE CHURCH Policy****

At St. Mark's Bethany, we prioritize the safety and well-being of our children and youth. In accordance with our commitment to maintaining a secure environment, we have established the following access policy for the children's programming areas:



****Authorized Access:****

Only children, parents, or approved caregivers are permitted to enter or traverse through the designated children's areas during the following hours:

- ****Sunday:**** 9:00 AM - 12:15 PM
- ****Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday:**** 8:30 AM - 2:30 PM
- ****Wednesday:**** 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

****Restricted Access:****

For the safety of our children, we kindly ask that all other individuals refrain from entering or passing through these areas during the specified hours, except in cases of emergency or to access emergency exits.

This policy aligns with St. Mark's Procedure for the Implementation of the Safety Policy for Children, Youth, and Vulnerable Adults (Refer to Paragraph 2.c.).

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation in ensuring a secure environment for our children.

Upcoming Events

TONIGHT - Wednesday Night Programs

5:30	Meal - Hamburgers
5:15	Prayer
6:15	KidMin
6:15	Youth Ministry
6:30	Choir Rehearsal

September 25 - Kings & Queens

September 28 - Capital Campaign
Construction Update

September 30 - Bishop Jeff Greenway
MACU @ 7 pm

October 4 - SMBW Arts & Crafts Show

October 7 - Men's Bible Study

October 9 - Second Winders

October 9 - YAM - New Series!

October 10 - Kings & Queens Kids

October 11 - Men's Breakfast

October 13 - St. Mark's Bethany Women

October 14 - Finance Meeting

October 14 - Men's Bible Study

October 15 - YAM

October 20 - Wrapped in Love

October 21 - Men's Bible Study

October 23 - Kings & Queens Plus

October 24 - Overholser Fall Festival

FACTS & Figures

2025 Annual Budget 632,679

Rec'd toward Operating
9/20/2025 9,982

Year to Date 2025
Rec'd toward offering
(thru 9/20/25) 428,430
Expenses (9/20/25) 454,542

ATTENDANCE

Sunday, September 21 Total 349

Traditional Worship 190
Modern Worship 57
Online Worship 102

Come pray with us -- whether you want to pray quietly alone, be prayed for, or join in intercessory prayer for others. Explore simple prayer tools, linger or come and go as you need, and experience the presence of God in a peaceful space.



Wednesdays 5:15-6:00 pm
Prayer Team meets 5:15 pm



COMMUNION SERVERS September 28, 2025

Traditional: Sherry White & Vickie Maynord
Steve & Christie Couch
Modern: Aimee & Lincoln Jenks



Prayer Board

Family & friends of
Susan McRae
Julie Yardley (friend of
Kathy Moore)
Anthony Thomas (friend
of Barbara Johnson)
Norma and Dan Boland
Jennifer and infant son,
Jacob (friend of Christy
Kiespert)
Carole Rosenthal (sister of
Elaine Talbot)
Wendell Everett (friend of
Gary Layton)
Stephanie Maynord (cousin
of Vickie Maynord)
Vickie Wines (grandmother
of Chealsie Zink)
Tony Pellegrini
Judy Ross
Jim Donnan (father of
co-worker of Deb Wade)

Vernon (Brother of
Hazel Bremmer)
Kason (grandson of
Cheryl Pavelko)
Evelyn Moore
Sandy Rutherford
Kathi Wagner (Dot Lyon's
daughter, Lory's best
friend)
Bill Underwood
Billy Joe Watson (friend of
Wayne Barnes)
Beverly Clark
Barbara Hill
Lief Hill (son of a friend of
Wayne Barnes)
Winn Lusk
Ginger Fenton (daughter of
Jeff & Dianna Davidson)
Dianna Davidson
Judy McMinn
Tiffany Montesano