



ST. MARK'S BETHANY NEWSLETTER

JOIN US FOR WORSHIP!

The Life Was the Light of All People

This Sunday marks the beginning of Advent, a season of hope, expectation, and holy light. We're starting a brand-new sermon series, The Light Shines into the Darkness. Pastor Randy will begin with this week's message, "The Life Was the Light of All People," drawing from Genesis 1:1-5 to remind us that even from the very beginning, God's light has been breaking into the darkness and giving life to the world. Come be encouraged as we begin this journey toward Christmas together.

And then, join us again in the evening for a peaceful Vespers Service. A reception in Barnett Hall begins at 6:30 pm, followed by a quiet reflective service of prayer and praise in the sanctuary at 7:00 pm. It's a beautiful way to end the day and welcome the season with hope and calm.

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

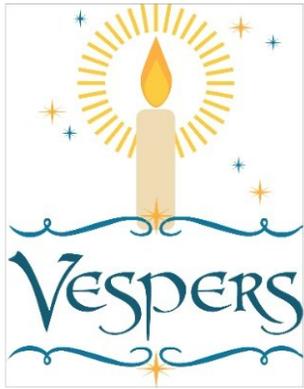
CHILDREN

Nursery (Ages 0-3 yrs)	9:30 - 12:00
KidMin (Age 3 - 5th grade)	9:30 - 10:35
Wee Worship (Age 3- Kdgtn)	10:45 - 12:00

ADULT

• 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

Advent Vespers Service November 30



As we remember the long-awaited Messiah throughout the season of Advent, we also look forward with hope to our King's glorious second coming--when all things will be made right and new. In the Vesper hour, the quiet evening time of prayer, we pause to reflect on the day that has passed and entrust tomorrow to God's care, resting in His promise and peace.

Join us for a gentle, reflective service of prayer and Psalm singing as we anticipate the coming King and open our hearts to the peace given to all whose hope is in the Lord.

We will gather for a reception in Barnett Hall at 6:30 pm, followed by the Vespers service in the sanctuary at 7:00 pm. All are welcome to this meaningful beginning to the Advent season.

Willow Needs Our Help

One of our local mission partners, Willow Pregnancy Support, has unexpectedly lost their lease and must relocate by January 1st. They are currently searching for a new Bethany-area space with 2,000+ square feet and a budget of around \$3,000 per month.

If you know of an available building, office space, or rental property that might meet their needs, please contact the church office or reach out to Willow directly. Let's come alongside this ministry that faithfully serves women, children, and families in our community.

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.

You're invited: Darrell Cate's Retirement Party
Tuesday, December 2
2:00 - 4:00 PM



HOLIDAY SWEATER

Retirement Party

H O N O R I N G
DARRELL CATES

Come and Go

2:00 - 4:00 PM
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 2
4201 N. CLASSEN BOULEVARD
OKLAHOMA CITY, OK 73118

Light snacks and drinks provided.
Holiday sweater optional (but highly encouraged).

Click HERE
to RSVP

Second Winder's to Meet December 11th

Looking forward to December 11th for the Second Winder's gathering. We will gather in the sanctuary starting at 11 o'clock to watch and enjoy the CDO Christmas program.

Our meal together starts at 12 o'clock. If you would like to bring homemade Christmas cookies to serve as our desserts, please feel free to do so.

Following the meal, we will be playing Jesus Bingo.



St. Mark's is taking part in the Care Share program again this year. Thank you, St. Mark's!!! Most of the names have been taken, but there are a few left.

Please be sure to return your gifts (unwrapped) to the church by DECEMBER 7TH!

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR LOVING,
GENEROUS HEARTS!!**



for Growing Families

We're celebrating two special moms in our St. Mark's family who are welcoming another baby to their family! Tori Kessler, who is due on December 25th, and Anna Evans, due in January.

To help support them, we're collecting diapers of any size. You can bring your diapers to the church office or give them to Sharon Hunt. Let's bless these families with love and practical help as they prepare for their little ones' arrival!

As we focus this collection on helping moms who already have little ones at home, we also want everyone to know that we are absolutely continuing to honor and support our new moms as well. St. Mark's celebrates each new baby with a church-wide baby shower, ensuring our newest families receive the love, gifts and encouragement they need. Your donations for the Diaper Drive simply allow us to extend that same care to mothers who are already juggling the busy, beautiful work of raising young children.

Kings and Queens Christmas Giving Thank You!

Our Kings & Queens Christmas Giving was a wonderful success this year! Thank you to everyone who donated gifts to support our kids. Your generosity helps make this season brighter and reminds our students that they are seen, valued, and deeply loved.

The Christmas celebration is coming up soon, and we can't wait to share the joy. Once the party takes place and the gifts are delivered, we'll be sure to share photos of all the smily kids so you can see the difference your kindness made.

Thank you again for being a church family that gives with such joyful hearts!

Poinsettias For Advent

Help us beautify the sanctuary this Advent season with poinsettias given in memory of or in honor of someone special. After the Christmas Eve services, you're welcome to take your poinsettia home.

Please sign up for your poinsettias on the You may sign up at the church counter or by calling the church office. Poinsettias are \$20 each this year.



Kigoma Women's Center Dedication Mission Trip

Plans are moving forward for the June 7, 2026 dedication of the Women's Center in Kigoma, Tanzania, and Pastor Randy will be finalizing trip details and estimated costs this week. If you are considering being part of this mission team, now is the time to pray, think it over, and make your decision.

There will be a Mission Meeting after church this Sunday, November 23rd, for anyone interested in going. If you feel even a small tug toward this opportunity--or if you simply want more information--please plan to attend. Your presence at the meeting will help Pastor Randy know who is seriously considering the trip so preparations can continue.



Please keep this mission opportunity in your prayers, and ask God whether He might be calling you to be part of this meaningful journey.



Christmas Eve Services

4:00 pm
7:00 pm
11:00 pm

St. Mark's Bethany Women Meeting December 8th



St. Mark's Bethany Women are hosting a Christmas "Thank You" brunch at 11:00 am on December 8th in Barnett Hall.

Men's Breakfast Saturday - Dec. 13

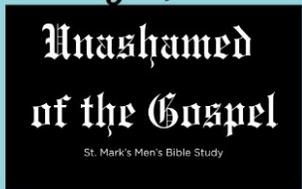


Christian Symbol



POINSETTIA — This shrub, native to Mexico, is at the heart of legend about a poor girl who wanted to bring Baby Jesus a gift one Christmas Eve. As she walked to church, she gathered a bouquet of weeds — which Jesus miraculously transformed into lovely red flowers. Thus the poinsettia (named for Joel Poinsett, the U.S. ambassador to Mexico who first brought the plant to America) is known in Mexico as la flor de la Nochebuena (flower of the Holy Night). The poinsettia is also an ideal Christmas symbol because its leaves turn red when deprived of sunlight and its flowers (the red inner buds) bloom in December.

Men's Bible Study Tuesdays, 7:00 PM



The St. Mark's men's Fall study is "Unashamed of the Gospel". The study meets at 7:00 pm in Room 17. This is Paul's longest letter, which includes some great themes.

For information, call Fred Dalton at 405-823-7264 or Rev. Allen Smith at 405-620-1861.

Bring your bible and join us.

Waiting for Jesus

This Sunday our KidMin kiddos begin a brand-new Advent journey called "Waiting for Jesus." Throughout the month, they'll explore the nativity story and discover how God kept His promise to send a King--Jesus--just as the prophets foretold.

Advent is all about anticipation, and kids understand that feeling better than anyone. In this series, they'll learn why Jesus was worth waiting for as they look at prophecies from Isaiah and see how those promises were fulfilled in the birth of Christ. Each week points them to the hope, joy and certainty we have because Jesus came--and because He's coming again.

We're excited to walk through this season with your families as we help our children understand the true wonder of Christmas: the long-awaited arrival of our Savior.

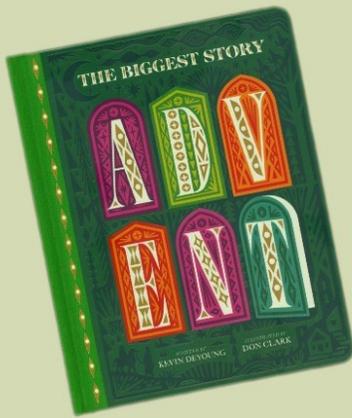
Cards of Thanks for Our Heroes



Our KidMin children are learning the importance of gratitude and service by creating handmade cards for the men and women serving in our military. These cards will be sent overseas through The Hugs Project, reminding our troops that they are loved, appreciated, and prayed for back home.

Anyone is welcome to join in! You can use one of the cards KidMin has prepared, or make your own. If you're not sure what to say, check out the "What to Write About" article on the KidMin grid for ideas and inspiration.

Please turn in all letters and cards by **December 15** so they can be included in this special delivery of encouragement and love.



A New Advent Story for Our Kids!

This year we're using a special Advent book for our kids called **The Biggest Story: Advent** --and it's not your usual Christmas story! Instead of starting with shepherds, angels, and wise men, this book takes us on an adventure *before* the manger. It shares the "story before the story"--the promises God made all through the Old Testament about the Savior who would one day come.

Each day of Advent, kids will hear a short, cozy, bedtime-style chapter that feels like a storybook...but every page points to God's big rescue plan and His amazing love for us. Some of the promises in the book are ones they might already know, and some might be brand-new--but all of them help us see how God was preparing the world for Jesus long before that first Christmas night.

Our hope is that this little Advent journey will help kids (and parents and grandparents!) see just how big and wonderful God's story really is.

Let's get ready for Advent together as we discover **THE BIGGEST STORY** of all!

25 Day Advent family Devotions & SCAVENGER HUNT

This year, KidMin is inviting families with children of all ages to experience Advent in a fun and meaningful new way! Our 25-Day Advent Family Devotions take your family on a daily journey toward Christmas, helping kids discover the story of Jesus' birth through simple readings, conversations, and hand-on activities.

It's simple, fun, and designed for all ages. Pick up your family's kit and get ready to begin your Advent adventure on December 1st!

Choose 1 or both for your family!

UNLOCK THE SECRET MESSAGE

Can you Decode the Secret Message?

Card 1 contains a After you finish your petzo card, record the er you have collected all message on Christmas Day!

DEC 5	DEC 6				
DEC 9	DEC 10	DEC 11	DEC 12	DEC 13	
DEC 16	DEC 17	DEC 18	DEC 19	DEC 20	DEC 21
DEC 24	DEC 25				

25 DAY ADVENT family DEVOTIONS & SCAVENGER HUNT

RED TESTAMENT PROMISE

ISAIAH

Look for a promise in the Old Testament that points to the birth of Jesus. This promise will be used for the Scavenger Hunt on Christmas Day!

St. Mark's Bethany



KidMin December Happenings!

Advent is here--a season of waiting, watching, and celebrating Jesus together! We have so many meaningful (and fun!) ways for families to grow in faith this month. Here's what's coming up:

Sunday Mornings in December

Our new Sunday series is called "Waiting" --learning from Isaiah and the New Testament how God's people waited with hope. Children will also help decorate and prepare our classrooms for Advent!

Wednesday Nights

Parents and grandparents are invited to join us on Wednesdays as we explore simple Advent activities that help prepare our hearts for Christmas.

December 3 - Nativity Stones Night (6:15 pm)

After dinner, families are invited to create Nativity Stones together. A special thank-you to Ed and Gina Boerner for preparing the stones.

December 10 - Christmas Lights Trip to Yukon

We're loading up the vans for a fun night of Christmas lightloping

December 17 - Family S'mores Night

No regular programming this week - instead, we'll gather at the church or the lake (details coming soon!) for s'mores and fellowship. Come enjoy the warmth, fun and gooey goodness!

December 21 - Churchwide Caroling

Kelly Jo is organizing a festive night of Christmas caroling. All are welcome! Contact Kelly Jo to participate.

December 24 - Christmas Eve Services

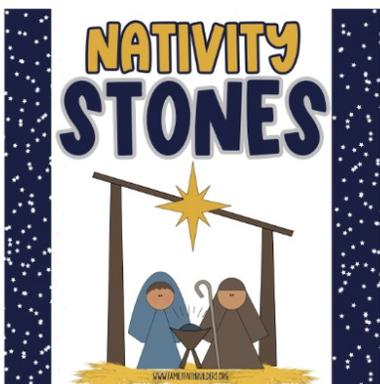
4:00 pm - Family Service (no childcare)

7:00 pm - Traditional Service (Childcare for ages 5 and under)

11:00 pm - Midnight Communion Service

We can't wait to worship, wait, and celebrate the arrival of our Savior with you all month long!

A HANDS-ON ADVENTURE FOR FAMILIES!



Get ready for a special family night! On Wednesday, December 3rd, kids and families will create their very own Nativity Stones--a hands-on devotional kit designed to help your family walk through the Christmas story together.

You'll paint eight stones, each already patterned with a part of the nativity story. Every stone comes with its own matching devotion card. Families can use the cards at home throughout Advent to remember each step of Jesus' birth story--and kids will love retelling it to everyone in the house!

If you're unable to join us at church that evening, no worries--you can contact Sharon for a DIY kit to take home.

Youth Winter Retreat 2026 – Sign Up Now!

YOUTH WINTER RETREAT 26

WHO'S OUR GOD - EXODUS 32

February 13-15 at Sky Ranch Cave Springs
Sign Up through the QR code!



Deadline to Sign up is February 1st
For Questions get ahold of Bequer
bequer@stmarksbethany.com



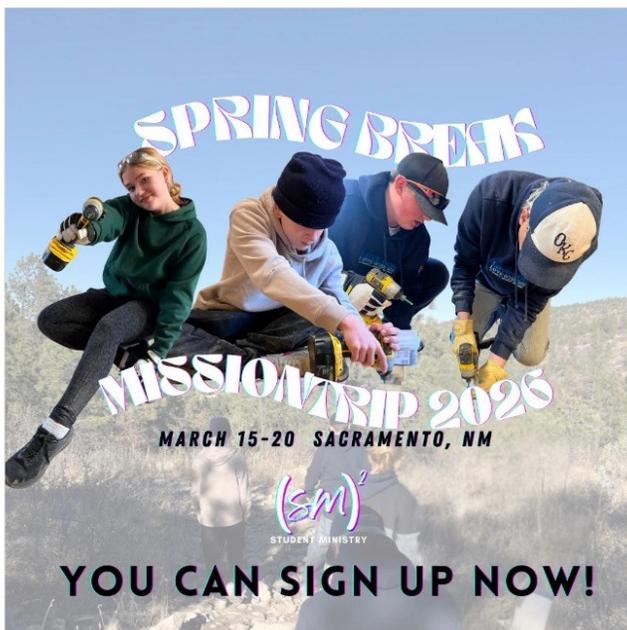
Our youth are heading to Sky Ranch Cave Springs for Winter Retreat 2026, and it's going to be an unforgettable weekend! This year's theme is "Who's Our God?" based on *Exodus 32* and students will spend February 13-15 growing in faith, building friendships, worshipping together and having plenty of winter fun.

Students can register using the QR code in the graphic, and the deadline to sign up is February 1st. If you have any questions, contact Bequer at bequer@stmarksbethany.com.

Let's encourage our youth as they prepare for an amazing retreat!

Spring Break Mission Trip 2026 -- Start Thinking Now!

It may feel a little early, but Spring Break 2026 will be here before we know it! Our St. Mark's Student Ministry is planning a Spring Break Mission Trip to Sacramento, New Mexico, on March 15-20, and we want students and families to start praying and thinking about going.



This week will be a great opportunity for our youth to serve others, learn new skills, grow in their faith, and have fun together as they work side by side. Whether this would be a first mission trip or a returning experience, all students are encouraged to consider taking part.

Sign-ups will open soon, but for now, please mark your calendars, start the conversation at home, and keep this trip in your prayers as we prepare for an amazing week of adventure!

Youth Turkey Olympics



Our youth had a blast at this year's Turkey Olympics! From silly challenges to friendly competition, the night was full of laughter, teamwork, and unforgettable moments. It's always a joy watching these students build friendships, cheer each other on, and make memories together. We're so grateful for Bequer and our amazing volunteers who make nights like this possible!



Strive Workday



What an incredible group of students and adults who showed up to serve during our Strive Workday! From raking leaves to hauling branches to helping our church family with real needs, these kids worked hard and served with joyful hearts. Their energy, compassion, and willingness to help remind us what it looks like to live our faith in practical ways. Thank you to everyone who participated and supported this day of service!



Capital Campaign Update from Pastor Randy

Everything continues to be on schedule for work to begin on Phase 1 of our construction in the Middle of January. Phase 1 includes a total remodel of the Family Life Center (gym) and Barnett Hall, plus the addition of a family bathroom where the custodian closet is currently located. One of the things we will be doing to keep costs down is to do some of the demolition ourselves. We do not yet have a schedule of work days, but look for them to begin sometime after December 21. Work has already begun to relocate many of the things currently stored in the rooms where the work will begin and we appreciate everyone who is working to get us ready for demolition and construction.

Another thing to celebrate is the generous giving from the people of St Mark's. In my last end of month update in October, we had received \$858,092 - an amount that put us ahead of expectations and in position to begin Phase 1. In the last month, our total amount given has climbed all the way to \$967,025. It's truly amazing. When we celebrated Commitment Sunday on February 23, I don't think any of us believed we would be on track to receive more than \$1,000,000 before the end of the year. But that is exactly where we are. All glory to God and many thanks to everyone for your generous contributions.



Capital Campaign Update

106 Pledges	1,342,736
Rec'd toward Pledges 11/24/2025	967,025

Randy

Administrative Council Meeting Tuesday December 2

Our next Administrative Council meeting will be held Tuesday, December 2 at 6:30 pm in Room 18. All church members are invited to attend as we review ministry updates, discuss upcoming plans, and continue working together to support the mission of St. Mark's.

Your presence and voice matter -- please join us if you're able.

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, & 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 - NO Wednesday Night Programs

November 27 - THANKSGIVING DAY
Office Closed

November 30 - Vespers Reception and Service

December 2 - ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL MEETING

December 2 - Men's Bible Study

December 6 - Faithbuilders Christmas Party

December 7 - R.O.C.K. Christmas Party

December 8 - St. Mark's Bethany Women

December 9 - Men's Bible Study

December 11 - Second Winders

December 12 - Kings & Queens

December 13 - Men's Breakfast

December 24 - Christmas Eve Services
(4:00, 7:00. & 11:00 PM)

February 22 - Chili Cook-Off

FACTS & Figures

2025 Annual Budget	632,679	
Rec'd toward Operating 11/22/2025		17,827
Year to Date 2025		
Rec'd toward offering (thru 11/22/25)	557,883	
Expenses (11/22/25)	571,163	

ATTENDANCE

Sunday, November 23	Total	393
Traditional Worship		202
Modern Worship		55
Online Worship		136

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



Prayer Board

- | | |
|---|---|
| Family & friends of
Judy Ross
Donna Shriver
Donna Lautzenhiser
Tim Dearing (friend of
Penny Fryman)
Jerry & Bonnie Fisher (brother
and SIL to Sandy Kelley &
Mike Fisher)
Brad Hart (husband of
Tammy (Best) Hart
Kevin (son of Becky &
Steve Chessmore)
Isaac Roman
Cindy Wilkerson
Beth (Bidne) Cook
Anthony Thomas (friend
of Barbara Johnson)
Norma and Dan Boland
Jennifer and infant son,
Jacob (friend of Christy
Kiespert) | Vickie Wines (grandmother
of Chealsie Zink)
Beverly Clark
Tony Pellegrini
Jim Donnan (father of
co-worker of Deb Wade)
Kason (grandson of
Cheryl Pavelko)
Sandy Rutherford
Kathi Wagner (Dot Lyon's
daughter, Lory's best
friend)
Bill Underwood
Billy Joe Watson (friend of
Wayne Barnes)
Barbara Hill
Lief Hill (son of a friend of
Wayne Barnes)
Ginger Fenton (daughter of
Jeff & Dianna Davidson)
Dianna Davidson
Judy McMin
Tiffany Montesano |
|---|---|