



ST. MARK'S BETHANY NEWSLETTER

JOIN US FOR WORSHIP!

To The Ends of the Earth: *"Journey #2: 'Come Over and Help Us'"*

What happens when God's plans are different from ours? This Sunday we continue our **To the Ends of the Earth** sermon series with **Journey #2: "Come Over and Help Us."** In Acts 15:36-16:10, Paul sets out with a plan for where he wants to go, but the Holy Spirit has something different in mind. Through closed doors, unexpected changes, and a vision calling him to Macedonia, Paul discovers that God's direction is always worth following. Join us Sunday as we consider how God may be guiding us -- even when the path looks different from the one we expected.

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 our Traditional service.

To watch the live stream, please join us at:
9:30 am Sunday morning



Sunday School Classes

We have classes for all ages and interests

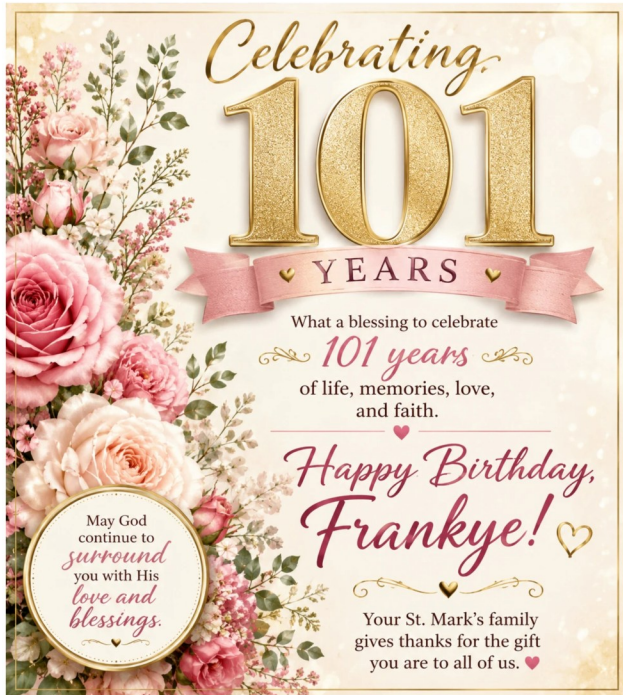
CHILDREN

"Seeds" (Ages 0-18 mos)	9:30 - 12:00
"Sprouts" (Ages 18 mo-3 yrs)	9:30 - 10:35
Kidmin 1 (Elementary)	9:30 - 10:35
Kidmin 2 (Elementary)	11:00 - 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

Celebrating 101 Years!



This week, we celebrate a very special birthday in our St. Mark's family! **Frankye Flemings celebrated her 101st birthday on August 11!**

What an incredible milestone and what a blessing to celebrate 101 years of life, memories, love, and faith. Frankye, your St. Mark's family wishes you a very happy birthday and gives thanks for the gift you are to all of us.

Happy 101st Birthday, Frankye!

May God continue to surround you with His love and blessings. ❤️

Beyond Sunday: The Sermon Continues



Have you ever left worship on Sunday wanting to spend a little more time with the message? This summer, we invite you to go "Beyond Sunday" as Pastor Randy leads a deeper discussion of the weekly sermon and our journey through the book of Acts. Together, we'll explore the movement of the Holy Spirit, the life of the early church, and what these lessons mean for us today. Bring your Bible, your questions, and a willingness to grow as we continue the conversation beyond Sunday morning.

Join us on **Tuesday evenings from 7:00 - 8:00 pm** or **Wednesday mornings from 10:30 - 11:30 am.** (Please note that Men's Bible Study will return this fall.)

We would love for you to be part of the journey!

Many Hands Made a BIG Difference!

A huge **THANK YOU** to everyone who came out Friday morning to help clean and freshen up our children's area! Your willing hands, hard work, and cheerful hearts made such a difference.

Because of you, our KidMin / CDO spaces are clean, welcoming, and ready for another wonderful season of ministry with our children and families. We are so grateful for each of our amazing **Difference Makers** who gave their time to help!



Just look at
what we can
accomplish
when we work
together!





Let's Finish Strong!

Thank you to everyone who has already supported our

Back-to-School Blessing!

We're almost there! Let's work together to bless our students and teachers with the supplies they need for a great year.



You can purchase a pencil item from the list or make a donation, and we will do the shopping!

Thank you for making a difference! ♥

KidMin2 - Aug 16



On Sunday, August 16, our KidMin2 children will discover an important truth: God is always with us and we can trust Him no matter what. Through Bible stories, fun activities, and hands-on learning, they'll be reminded that God watches over His

children and never leaves their side. We can't wait to see what God teaches them this week!



As a new school year begins, our KidMin children will be kicking off a fun and meaningful two-week series called "**The Lunch Table**" beginning **Sunday, August 23**.

Using the familiar setting of the school lunchroom, children will discover important biblical truths about kindness, friendship, including others, and showing God's love to everyone they meet.

KidMin 1 (9:30 a.m.)

- **August 23:** *Our Table Is Big*
- **August 30:** *Loving the Lunchroom Bully*

KidMin 2 (11:00 a.m.)

- **August 23:** *What's on the Menu?*
- **August 30:** *Packing Your Lunchbox*

This engaging series is a wonderful opportunity to help children navigate friendships and challenges they may face at school while learning what it means to follow Jesus in their everyday lives.

We invite all children to join us as we begin this exciting back-to-school adventure in KidMin on **Sunday, August 23!**

A Morning of Fellowship & Celebration

The St. Mark's Bethany Women enjoyed a wonderful morning together on Monday, welcoming Becky Sigman from Project 31 as their guest speaker. The morning also included a special celebration for Frankye and her 101st birthday! It was a sweet time of learning, laughter, fellowship, and celebrating one very special lady. "What a blessing to share these moments together!



Celebrating 90 Wonderful Years!



We have another special birthday to celebrate! **Lily celebrated her 90th birthday** last Sunday, and we couldn't let this wonderful milestone pass without wishing her a very happy birthday!

St. Mark's is blessed by so many faithful members who have shared decades of life, love, wisdom, and faith with our church family. What a gift it is to have so many among us who are celebrating their 90s -- and beyond!

Happy 90th birthday, **Lily!** We are so glad you're part of our St. Mark's family!



Moms, you're invited! Join us each Wednesday morning from 9:30-11:00 am in Room 19 for **The Gathering**, a welcoming time for moms to connect,

encourage one another, and grow in faith while your little ones are lovingly cared for by our Titus 2 volunteers. Whether you're a first-time mom or have older preschoolers, we'd love to have you join us!



Calling All CRAFTERS!



Do you enjoy sewing, painting, woodworking, jewelry-making, quilting, or creating handmade items? The St. Mark's Bethany Women's group is preparing for our Arts & Crafts Show on **OCTOBER 3RD** and would love your help!



We're inviting crafters to donate handmade items to be sold in our booth. Proceeds from the booth will go back into our community to support local charities.



.....>>> If you'd like to participate, please contact <<<.....

 Carol Brown | 405-823-1345

 Thank you for using your talents to make a difference! 



SAVE the DATE

SMBW

ARTS & CRAFTS FAIR

 **SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2026**

 **10:00 AM - 3:00 PM**

 **SHOP**  **CREATE**  **CONNECT**

Vendor Applications AVAILABLE NOW!

ST. MARK'S BETHANY GMC



Our Local Missions

At St. Mark's, we love being part of what God is doing not only around the world, but right here in our own community. Through partnerships with ministries like Willow Pregnancy Support and ROC, we have the opportunity to share Christ's love in meaningful, hands-on ways.

Because of your prayers, generosity, and willingness to serve, lives are being touched, needs are being met, and hope is being shared—right here at home.



We're excited to share that Willow Pregnancy Support has moved to a new location at 4107 N. Council in Bethany! Willow continues to be a place of care, encouragement, and practical support for families in our community.



They currently welcome donations of children's clothing (newborn through size 6), shoes (up to size 13), diapers (sizes 4-6), as well as bottles, bath wash, lotion, and Good Start formula.

Thank you for being part of the love and support we're able to share through this ministry!



Our partnership with ROC continues to be a simple but powerful way to care for neighbors in need. One of the main ways we support ROC is through donations of canned and boxed food.

Right now, canned meats like tuna and chicken are especially needed, but any nonperishable food items are greatly appreciated. Donations can be placed in the Grocery Basket in the narthex.

Thank you for helping us make a difference—one meal, one family at a time.

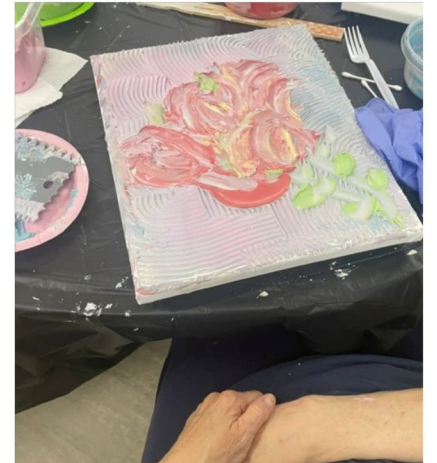
Behind the Art: Where the Fun Began!



You've seen the beautiful finished artwork—now take a peek behind the scenes! Our St. Mark's Bethany Women had a wonderful time creating their joint compound art, with plenty of creativity, laughter, and fellowship along the way. These photos capture some of the fun that went into making those beautiful pieces.



Sometimes the best part of creating something special is the time spent together while doing it!



Back-2-School Breakfast Sunday, August 16th

Kick off the fall with our annual **Back-2-School Breakfast!** Bring the whole family and enjoy breakfast together before Sunday School as we celebrate a new season of learning and pray a blessing over our children, students, teachers, and school staff for the year ahead.

We'll be serving **Big Truck Tacos** breakfast burritos and **smoothie bowls**, and a special **Back-2-School Blessing** will be offered during each worship service.

Please register on **Church Center** so we'll know how much food to purchase. We look forward to celebrating this exciting new school year with you!



Wednesday Night MINISTRIES Return!

And don't forget--**Wednesday Night Ministries** return on **August 26!** Dinner begins at **5:30 pm**, with ministry activities for all ages to follow.

Whether you've been coming for years or you're looking for a place to connect, Wednesday nights are a wonderful opportunity to enjoy a meal together, build friendships, grow in your faith, and spend time in Christian community.

More details about the fall schedule will be coming soon. We can't wait to gather together again!

SAVE THE DATE! St. Mark's Fall Picnic Sunday, September 20

Mark your calendars for one of our favorite fall traditions! **St. Mark's Fall Picnic** is **Sunday, September 20**. We'll provide the grilled hamburgers and hot dogs -- you bring a covered dish to share, along with your lawn chairs and blankets.

Come ready for good foot, great fellowship, and plenty of fun! We'll have games and activities for the kids and lots of time to relax, visit, and enjoy being together as a church family.

Save the date and plan to join us!



ONE SUNDAY a Month. AN ETERNAL DIFFERENCE.

Follow Jesus. Make a Difference.

Jesus welcomed children with open arms—
and you can help us do the same.

Our KidMin ministry is looking for a few caring volunteers to help create a safe, fun, and Christ-centered environment where children can learn about God's love. Whether you can serve once a month or be available as a substitute, your time makes an eternal difference.

DIFFERENCE MAKER OPPORTUNITIES

 KIDMIN SEEDS (BIRTH—18 MONTHS)	- Volunteer needed during 1st Hour - Serve the 3rd Sunday of each month
 KIDMIN SPROUTS	- Assistant needed during the 9:30 a.m. service - Commitment: Once each month
 KIDMIN 2	- Assistant needed during the 11:00 a.m. service - Serve the 2nd Sunday of each month
 KIDMIN RESPONSE TEAM We also need a few volunteers who are willing to step in when someone is sick or unable to serve. If you're flexible and enjoy helping wherever you're needed, we'd love to have you on our Response Team .	

Every smile, every hug, every story, and every prayer helps plant seeds of faith that can last a lifetime.

Every child. Every story. Every life. Eternally impacted.

Ready to make a difference?  |  **Contact Sharon** to learn more or sign up to serve.

STARTING IN September! FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT

Growing in God's Love Every Week!

Join us in **KidMin 2** (during the 11:00 a.m. service) and on **Wednesday nights** as we discover how the Fruit of the Spirit helps us live more like **Jesus!**

 LOVE	 GOODNESS
 JOY	 FAITHFULNESS
 PEACE	 GENTLENESS
 PATIENCE	 SELF-CONTROL
 KINDNESS	

The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.
GALATIANS 5:22-23

Help Build Our Titus 2 Team

Love LITTLE ONES? JOIN THE Titus 2 Team!

CARE FOR OUR YOUNGEST | SUPPORT FAMILIES IN FAITH | MAKE AN ETERNAL DIFFERENCE | BE PART OF SOMETHING BEAUTIFUL

A little time. A lasting impact.

We're looking for caring adults who enjoy spending time with babies and toddlers while parents participate in Bible studies and church activities.

Whether you're comforting a toddler, reading a story, playing a game, or simply sharing God's love, you'll be helping create a safe, nurturing environment where young families can grow in their faith together.

No teaching required. Just a caring heart and a willingness to love our youngest children.

If you'd like to learn more about serving on the Titus 2 Team, **contact Sharon Hunt.**

"Supporting young families. Encouraging the next generation." Titus 2:3-5

Upcoming Events

Aug 12 - NO WEDNESDAY NIGHT MEAL

Aug 13 - SPRC Meeting

Aug 13 - CDO Meet the Teacher Night

Aug 16 - Back to School Breakfast

Aug 17 - CDO Begins

Aug 17 - Wrapped in Love

Aug 18 - Beyond Sunday

Aug 19 - The Gathering/Titus 2

Aug 19 - Beyond Sunday 2

Aug 24 - Administrative Council Mtg

Aug 25 - Beyond Sunday

Aug 26 - The Gathering/Titus 2

Aug 26 - Beyond Sunday 2

Aug 29 - BSF Leaders Workshop

Aug 30 - Missions Meeting

Sept 2 - The Gathering/Titus 2

Sept 6 - One Service

Sept 7 - Office Closed

Sept 12 - Men's Breakfast

Sept 14 - St. Mark's Bethany Women

Sept 21 - Wrapped in Love

FACTS & Figures

2026 Annual Budget	684,155
Rec'd toward Operating 8/08/2026	11,848
Year to Date 2026	
Rec'd toward offering (thru 8/08/26)	392,422
Expenses (thru 8/08/26) ..	390,629

ATTENDANCE

Sunday, August 9	Total	312
Traditional Worship		191
Modern Worship		43
Online Worship		78

Need Someone to Walk With You?



STEPHEN MINISTRY
Christ caring • for people • through people

None of us is meant to carry life's burdens alone.

Stephen Ministers are caring members of St. Mark's who are trained to provide confidential, one-on-one Christian support during difficult times.

Whether you're experiencing grief, illness, loneliness, caregiving, or another life challenge, a Stephen Minister is available to listen, encourage, pray, and walk alongside you.

Hope begins with a conversation.



Contact one of our Stephen Ministers, or call the church office to learn more.



VERSE FOR THE WEEK



“Let all that you do be done in *love*.”

- 1 CORINTHIANS 16:14



Prayer Board



Karen Hall (Friend of Sandy Kelley)

Jack (Dad of Aimee Jenks)

Bobbie Gaston

Fisher Marchant

Kathi Fisher

Elaine Talbot

Heidi (Friend of Esther Underwood)

Sherry White

Laura Joss (Wife of Bill Underwoods Nephew)

Mary Jane Svejovsky

Tamara Spear Kerr (friend of Dot Lyon's daughter, Lori)

Lucas (12 yr old nephew of Carolyn Grady's supervisor)

Laurie Buckholtz

Benni (DIL of Cheryl Davis)

Helen Sullivan

John Evans

Danny Payne

Roger Pautsch

Gordon Denton

BIL of Joey Pedigo)

Nichole Norberto

Judy Knight

Carol Hall

Brandon Kilpatrick (friend of Steve Ross)

Brittany (Friend of Robin Bratcher)

Coy Sue Tyler (best friend of Loretta Wright)

Norma and Dan Boland

Tony Pellegrini

Evelyn Moore

Bill Underwood

Billy Joe Watson (friend of Wayne Barnes)

Sandy Rutherford

Barbara Hill

Elmer (Barbara's friend)

Judy McMinn

Tiffany Montesano