



ST. MARK'S BETHANY

# NEWSLETTER

## JOIN US FOR WORSHIP!

### The People of Salt and Light -- You Have Heard That It Was Said

This Sunday, we continue our Lenten series, *The People of Salt & Light*, with a message titled "You Have Heard That It Was Said," based on Matthew 5:17-20. In this passage, Jesus reminds us that He did not come to abolish the law, but to fulfill it -- calling His followers to a deeper, heart-level righteousness that goes beyond outward actions. As we journey through Lent together, we'll reflect on what it means to live faithfully as people shaped by Christ's teaching, shining His light in our daily lives. Join us as we grow in understanding and recommit ourselves to living as His salt and light in the world.

### 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

# Church Construction Update from Pastor Randy

After talking, planning, and prepping for months, things are beginning to take shape around the building. With the ground work for the plumbing completed, the bathroom walls are being put up as I type. You can now see what the new family bathroom in the main hall, the expanded bathrooms in Barnett Hall, and the re-worked bathrooms in the Family Life Center are going to look like. It's encouraging to see the progress. In addition to the bathrooms progressing, we can also look forward to work beginning on the Mezzanine in the Family Life Center in the next few weeks. It won't look like much for a while, but we are definitely making progress.

Financially, the resources are still coming in ahead of schedule. We are at the 1 year mark of fundraising and have received \$1,086,238 of the slightly more than 1.4 million pledged over three years. It has been a great blessing to have many people fulfill their pledge early, with some even exceeding what was pledged! We have also had some people give who didn't pledge at all. So - Praise God from whom all blessings flow!

I also want to commend everyone for your great spirit of flexibility during this time. Nearly every group in the church has been moved, crowded, or disrupted during the past couple of months and I've heard very, very, little grumbling. Again - what a blessing! Looking ahead, your Campaign Team will be sending out "thank you's" and updates this month, so be looking for those. And, above all, keep on praying. Pray for the safety of those doing the work. Pray for continued patience and understanding from all involved. Pray for all the resources necessary to complete all that God has put before us. Pray for those making decisions on behalf of the whole church. And, while you are praying, don't forget to say "thank you" to God who has made all of this possible.



### Capital Campaign Update

106 Pledges .....	1,342,736
Rec'd toward Pledges 02/24/2026 .....	1,086,238

Randy

## St. Mark's Bethany Women Meeting March 9

St. Mark's Bethany Women will meet on Monday, March 9, at 10:00 a.m. in Room 18. Come learn, be informed, and enjoy fellowship together.



All women are welcome!

## Second Winders' Meeting March 9

Second Winders will meet on Thursday, March 12, at 11:30 a.m. in Room 18 gathering with the meal at noon and the program to follow.



Come enjoy food, fun and fellowship together.

## 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.

## Administrative Council Meeting Tuesday March 3

Our next Administrative Council meeting will be held Tuesday, March 3rd at 6:00 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.

## 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.

**Willow has recently moved to a new location at 6006 North Rockwell in Bethany and continues to serve families in our community with care and compassion.**

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.



## ST. MARK'S BETHANY

We are hiring for paid children/youth 2026 summer internships now!

Apply Here!



St. Mark's Bethany is a place for children/youth to build a foundation of faith and equip kids to KNOW God, GROW to be like Him, and GO serve Him. At St. Mark's, students come first! Our summer interns must have a heart to serve our church and love working with children and youth!

Interns are people who are interested in exploring ministry in the local church. They are selected because of their demonstrated leadership among their peers and students, maturity in their Christian faith, and a desire to see others come to know Jesus Christ. This would be an unforgettable and valuable experience for someone with a heart for students and wants to be involved with them.

# KINGS & QUEENS CHILI COOK-OFF WINNERS



Here are your 2026 Chili Cook-Off Champions

- 1 1st Place – Nate Cheatham
- 2 2nd Place – Aliyah Gannon
- 3 3rd Place – Larry Gaston

People's Choice – Rosie Wells

THANK YOU to everyone who cooked, judged, donated, volunteered, and came out to support Kings & Queens. Because of YOU, it was such a successful and fun-filled night!

Their goal was \$3,000 and \$2,318 was raised at the cook-off. If you weren't able to make it, you can still help them make their goal! Every dollar makes a difference in supporting our special needs ministry.

Donate HERE:

<https://donate.stripe.com/7sY00j7wH2Bj0EDg3K43S00>

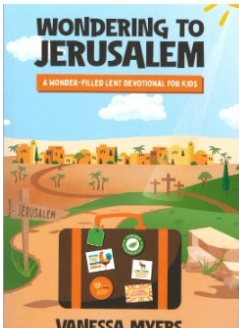


## Men's Bible Study Tuesdays at 7:00 pm

The St. Mark's Men's Bible Study meets on Tuesday evenings at 7:00 pm in Room 17. This group offers a welcoming space for men to gather around God's Word, grow in faith, and encourage on another through thoughtful discussion and prayer. Bring your Bible and join the conversation as we explore Scripture together and seek how it speaks into our daily lives. Whether you've been part of the group before or are joining for the first time, all men are welcome.

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

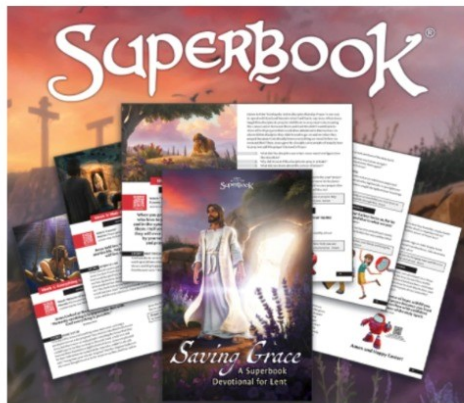
## Lent Family Activities Wondering to Jerusalem



This interactive Lent resource is designed especially for younger children and families. As children journey through Lent, they'll use stickers and simple activities to help them walk alongside Jesus on the road to Jerusalem. It's a hands-on, meaningful way to talk about faith at home and stay connected to the season of Lent together as a family.

## Saving Grace SuperBook

For older children, this Superbook Lent devotional offers short, engaging reading that help kids explore what it means to be saved by grace. With age-appropriate reflections and faith conversations, it's a great tool for helping kids grow spiritually throughout Lent -- whether reading on their own or with a parent.



Both resources are wonderful ways for families to experience Lent together and help children grow in faith during this season.

## 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.



Eight participants will attend from St. Mark's and David and Becky Roman will be meeting them there. This trip is a meaningful opportunity to celebrate God's work through long-term mission partnerships and to stand alongside those serving faithfully.

The mission team will be leaving Oklahoma City on May 28th and will return on June 9th.

**Please keep this mission opportunity, the team, and the Women's Center in your prayers.**

# Now That's a Miracle!



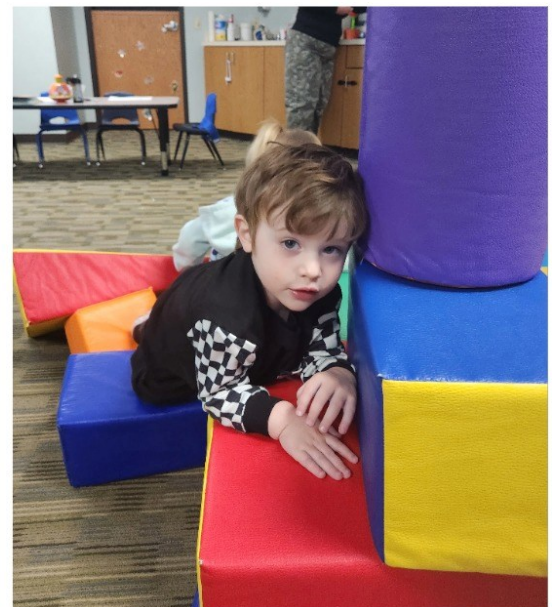
Over the past two weeks in KidMin, our children have been learning about two of Jesus' powerful miracles -- calming the storm and feeding the five thousand. Through hands-on activities, crafts, and lots of laughter, they discovered that Jesus has power over the wind and waves... and that He provides more than enough for our needs.



As they built, created, played, and listened, they were reminded that no storm is too big for Jesus and no need is too small for Him to care about. We love watching these truths take root in their young hearts!



Thank you to our wonderful volunteers who help bring these Bible stories to life each week. Please continue to pray for our children as they grow in faith and learn to trust Jesus in every situation.



# RACE TO THE TOMB

JOHN 20:4

On Wednesday night, March 25th, our youth will join the youth of Crossroads Methodist Church for a special Easter event, Race to the Tomb, inspired by John 20:4. It will be an evening filled with worship, dinner, and a fun Easter scavenger hunt and games as we celebrate the hope and joy of the Resurrection together at their campus. This will be a wonderful time of fellowship and connection with other students as we prepare our hearts for Easter. More details about travel arrangements and times will be share soon -- we can't wait!

## Youth Bible Reading Challenge Don't Break the Streak!

The Youth Bible Reading Challenge is in full swing, and our students are working hard to keep their streaks alive! Each day they spend time in God's Word is another step toward building a strong, lasting habit of faith.

Students -- don't let that streak flame go out! Even just a few minutes in Scripture makes a difference.

Parents, a quick "What did you read today?" can go a long way in encouraging consistency and meaningful conversations at home. Let's keep cheering them on as they grow, learn, and connect with God each day!



## Youth Metro Worship Night

All youth are invited to join us for a special Metro Worship Night on Sunday, March 1st! We will meet at the church at 4:30 PM, grab dinner together, and then head to New Covenant Church for a powerful evening of worship with other youth groups from across the metro.

Please send \$10 with your student to help cover the cost of dinner. We expect to return to St. Mark's by 8:30 PM.





Learn Character. Learn Independence. Learn Truth.

# KIDS NEED CAMP.

[www.newliferanch.com](http://www.newliferanch.com)

## St. Mark's Children's Summer Camp SAVE THE DATES!!!

We're excited to share information about **two fantastic children's camps** at **New Life Ranch** this summer for kids who are **going into 2nd-6th grade!**

**Junior Camp** runs June 14-20 (Sunday-Saturday) with fun, high-energy theme "Superheroes."

**Children's Camp Howdy** will be July 12-15 (Sunday - Wednesday) and features a "Wild West" theme your kids are sure to love.

Camp at New Life Ranch is an incredible opportunity for children to grow in faith, build friendships, and experience God's love in a fun and encouraging environment.

**Scholarships are available** to help make camp possible for every child.

# Youth Summer Camps 2026!!!



Mark your calendars for our 2026 summer camps! These camps are wonderful opportunities for students to grow in faith, build friendships, and have fun in a Christ-centered environment.

**DAYSPRING May 26 - 30**

This is our high school camp for students entering 9th grade through graduating seniors. Camp will be held at New Life Ranch - Frontier Cove. The cost is \$325 per student, and Strive funds may be used for camps and retreats!

**YOUTH FORCE TULSA - June 14 - 19**

**DISCIPLE CAMP - July 22-25**

We encourage families to start planning now and prayerfully consider which camp opportunities are right for their students.

# Upcoming Events

March 4 - Wednesday Night Meal - TACOS

5:15 Prayer  
 6:15 KidMin  
 6:15 Youth Ministry  
 6:30 Choir Rehearsal

February 26 - Kings & Queens Plus

March 2 - KidMin Update Meeting

March 3 - Administrative Council Mtg

March 3 - Men's Bible Study

March 5 - Stephen Ministry Training

March 9 - St. Mark's Bethany Women

March 10 - SPRC Meeting

March 10 - Men's Bible Study

March 12 - Second Winders Meeting

March 13 - Kings & Queens Kids

March 16 - Wrapped in Love

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 March 1, 2026

Traditional: Gregg Miller and Steve Chessmore  
 Sherry White and David Morgan

Modern: 4 Youth

# FACTS & Figures

2026 Annual Budget	684,155
Rec'd toward Operating 2/21/2026 .....	8,816
Year to Date 2026	
Rec'd toward offering (thru 2/21/26) .....	69,594
Expenses (thru 2/21/26) ..	95,671

### ATTENDANCE

Sunday, February 22	Total	374
Traditional Worship .....		214
Modern Worship .....		68
Online Worship .....		92



# Prayer Board

Family of Cindy Wilkerson  
 Carolyn Grady  
 Hazel Bremmer  
 Carol Hall  
 Jared Fenton (BIL of Jeff & Dianna Davidson  
 Kason (grandson of Cheryl Pavelko)  
 Tina West  
 Brandon Kilpatrick (friend of Steve Ross)  
 Norma McMurtry  
 Greg Tyler (friend of Loretta Wright)  
 Norma and Dan Boland  
 Beverly Clark  
 Tony Pellegrini

Evelyn Moore  
 Jim Donnan (father of co-worker of Deb Wade)  
 Kathi Wagner (Dot Lyon's daughter, Lory's best friend)  
 Bill Underwood  
 Billy Joe Watson (friend of Wayne Barnes)  
 Sandy Rutherford  
 Barbara Hill  
 Elmer (Barbara's friend)  
 Lief Hill (son of a friend of Wayne Barnes)  
 Judy McMinn  
 Tiffany Montesano