

St. Mark's

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

September 7, 2022



Join us this Sunday for worship at St. Mark's. Randy will be continuing in his new series "The Lord and His Prayer". This week's message will be "Give Us This Day" and will come from Psalm 45: 3b-21.

Traditional services are at 9:30 am and Modern services are at 10:55 am. All Sunday school classes will be back at their regular time and area. If you don't attend a class drop by one and try it out.

If you are not able to attend Worship services there will be a live streaming of worship. To watch the life stream, you can join us at 9:30 am Sunday morning at:

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St. Mark's Pledge Drive for disaffiliation



St. Mark's
BETHANY

During September, with the grace and help of God, I commit to move St. Mark's forward in its service & witness into the future as we disaffiliate.

I pledge to give _____ in September
and a monthly gift of _____ if the loan is needed.

Love . Disciple . Worship . Serve .

For full details go to
page 7 for letter
from Mike Kilby,
Finance Chairperson

ST. MARK'S PICNIC

BURGERS AND HOT-DOGS -BOUNCE HOUSES- DUNK TANK- MUSIC -GAMES

COME JOIN US!
SEPTEMBER 11 FROM 5-7PM



BRING A SIDE DISH TO SHARE
COME DUNK YOUR FAVORITE
STAFF MEMBER!



Transitional Prayer Team

With all the conversation and activity going on around the transitions taking place the Church Council felt that this was a critical time for us as a church to set aside a time of prayer. A team has been put together to help us all join together in prayer as we seek God's wisdom during this time. Each Monday a Prayer guide will be avail-



able listing specific areas for us to be in prayer together in. It will be sent to the church email and be available on the Church Center app also. If you are not getting it please let the office know so we can make sure you are connected. Below is a copy of the third weeks guidelines. St. Markians believe in the power of prayer and during this time we expect to see God move.

Transitional Prayer Needs September 6-12

Bible Reading : Ephesians 2: 1- 10

Prayers for: Our transitional team to have clarity as they work through all the requirements to disaffiliate required by the conference Each member to give financially as the Lord leads to meet our obligations to the conference Many will participate in the opportunities for fellowship and discipleship this week Members will be informed on the Global Methodist Church and have a settled spirit on how to vote about joining this new denomination on September 18th Each member to serve joyfully and with thanksgiving as God leads them in sharing his kingdom with others

St. Mark's All Church Conference

Sunday September 18 10:35 am—Sanctuary

The church will be having another church conference on September 18th between services. There is only one order of business and it will be run by our own people. The vote will be whether or not as we move forward whether we want to become a part of the Global Methodist Church. You can learn more about details by going to page 10 of the newsletter and reading from the letter Jay Sears, our Chairperson of the Church Council. We want everyone's voice heard so we hope you are able to attend.

HEYA!!! COOKING CLASS

COME AND JOIN US MAKING
CHILES EN NOGADA!

WHILE LEARNING SOME BASIC CONVERSATIONAL SPANISH

BRING \$5 AND ENJOY YOUR MEAL!



SEPTEMBER 15, 2022
BARNETT HALL
FROM 5:45-7:00 PM

EMAIL TO RSVP:
BEQUER@STMARKSBETHANY.COM
OR SIGN-UP ON THE CHURCH COUNTER



Second Winders Returns

After a summer hiatus

Second Winders will kick off their monthly meeting on September 8th at noon.

The meal will be Indian Tacos followed by a program celebrating Native American Culture. Follow-

ing the meal there will be an optional



extended times for those who would like to play games and have some fellowship. Everyone is welcome to second winders.

Then on September 19th, they will take a road trip to the First American Museum.



You can sign up for that trip on the office counter. Come join us.

Safe Sanctuary—Leadership Training

With School getting started and with programming beginning to get planned for the Fall St. Mark's is looking at how to make ministry the best and safest we can for all. We will be making some changes in the way we train and do security checks. Over the next few weeks all those who are in ministry to children, youth and vulnerable adults will be receiving new material that we will have all staff and volunteers go through. On top of that you may want to check with your team leaders for any additional training that may be going on. The Children, CDO, Kings and Queens will be having a specialized training on August 28th at noon and August 31st at 6 pm. We will be using a company called Ministry Safe as a tool for training also. They have decades of experience training and provide a sound ministry basis. Be watching and let's make St. Mark's an even safer and more



Wednesday Night Fall Programming Gearing up

Fall programming is kicking off at St. Mark's. The prayer team has begun meeting at 6 pm in the prayer room. The choir will be having rehearsal starting at 6:30 pm. On September 7th, all other programming will begin. Children, Youth and adult studies will follow our meal together which kicks off at 5:30 pm. Check below for adult Bible Studies

DAWN - Dinner & Worship Night

Wednesdays @ 5:30 pm

Schedule:

5:30-6:15 Meal (family style)

6:00-6:30 Prayer Team

6:15-7:30 Children's & Student Ministry

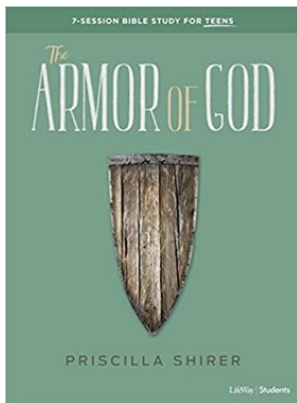
6:15-7:30 Adult Bible Studies

6:30-8:00 Choir Practice



Armor of God - A Wednesday night study for adults

In the introduction to this study, Priscilla Shirer writes, "A very real enemy has been scheming against you, assaulting you, coming after your emotions, your mind, your future. Are you ready for him not to have victory anymore? Join us as we learn to arm ourselves and prepare to stand firm against his schemes. And, as we learn about what to wear to ensure victory, we're simultaneously going to engage in what to do to guarantee it. Each week, we'll employ the secret weapon that has been divinely authorized by God Himself to stop the devil in his tracks."



This study will kick off on September 7th following dinner. Beverly Ray and Casey Cassidy will be leading the study.

If you are interested in this study, please get a guide entitled – Armor of God Teen Study Guide by Priscilla Shirer. They are available on Amazon for \$14.99 or \$18.99 depending on delivery date. Sign up on the church Counter

Bible Study on the Letter to the Romans

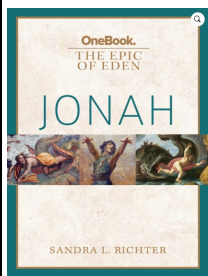
The book of Romans is considered by many to be the apostle Paul's greatest written work. In this One Book Daily-Weekly, noted New Testament scholar Dr. Ben Witherington III leads learners to grow in knowledge and faith as they begin to discover the enormous breadth and depth of the scripture contained therein. Over the course of twelve-weeks, this poignant study will guide students toward holy love, revealing more of Christ through deeper understanding.

This Study will also kick off on September 14th in room 18. Clayton Croy will lead this group and it should be full of wonderful content and discussion. If you would like a study guide, you can get one in the church office for \$15.

Sign up on the church counter and come be a part.



New Bible Study - Wednesday 1:30 pm



Join us for 7 weeks as we prepare to get soaked in the life of Jonah and find out how this prophet's adventurously inspired by God book is not just for children. Real or fiction? Sign up to get your feet wet: sheet on the narthex counter; Starting Wednesday, September 7 at 1:30 in room 18

More Info Text: K. Fisher (405)833-5820;

e-mail kfbirdfeeder@gmail.com.

Sunday Mornings



Discovering the Fruit of the Spirit:
Teaching kids how to be filled with
the Holy Spirit so they can live out
the Fruit of the Spirit.



Saturday, Sept 17th, 2022
9 am to 3 pm

Bible Bootcamp gives 3rd-
5th graders an opportunity
to discover how to use their
Bible.



Register in Church Center
under Signups or use the
QR code.



Sept 14th -
Madeleine Lopez

Sept 15th -
Cooper Brooks



KIDMIN NEWS

Staying Up to Date with the Latest Happenings

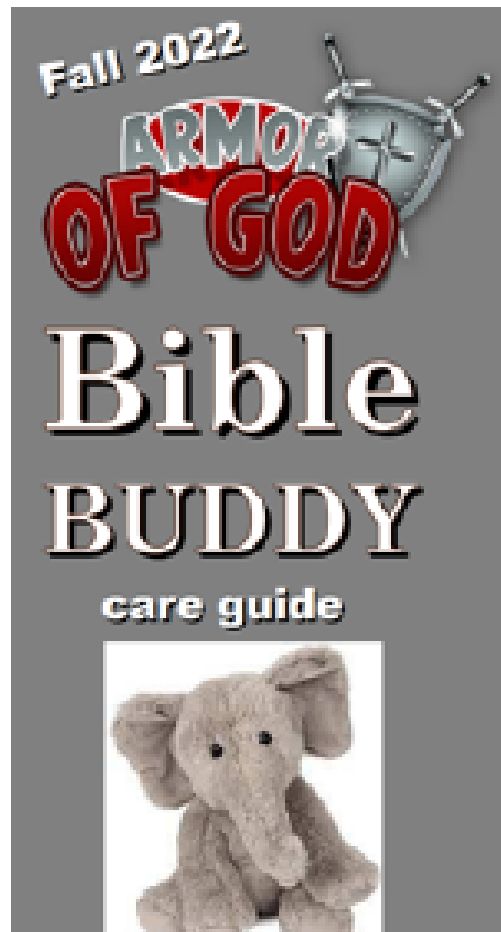
Wednesday Nights

Join us as we learn how to
Win against Sin.

"Put on the full armor of God, so
that we will be able to stand firm
against the schemes of the devil."
Ephesians 6:11



New Reading Plan!



FOCUS ON FAMILY



Thursday, Oct 6th

Focus on the Family has a great
article to equip our children for Bring
Your Bible to School Day. Access the
resources through the QR code.





St. Mark's

BETHANY

8140 N. W. 36th, Bethany, Oklahoma 73008

405-789-9033 www.stmarksbethany.com

St. Mark's Mission Statement

To build a family
of believers who
glorify God and
help each other
become fully
devoted follow-
ers of Jesus Christ

Greetings St. Markians,

I am writing this letter for the purpose of addressing a very important "next step" in the church's disaffiliation process.

We have overwhelmingly agreed that disaffiliation is the right thing for St. Mark's. This decision has set us on a path that is well defined by the Oklahoma Conference. In October the conference will vote to ratify the decision we as a church have made. Ten days prior to that ratification vote St. Mark's must deposit the required funds in an escrow account. The amount that we must be prepared to pay is \$467,000.

As the finance committee chair it is my task to recommend the best way for St. Mark's to come up with the money. Thankfully we are a church that has no debt, a significant asset in our property and a faithful congregation that gives generously. With that being the case there is every confidence that we can have the money ready when the conference requires it in the first week of October.

Now comes the ask. There are different ways to secure the funds needed. But our goal, and our prayer, is not to heap debt on the church. Ideally, this vote to uphold our conservative/traditional views and ensure that St. Mark's future is secure within a denomination that will respect and support us, ideally, it has motivated us to do whatever we can, each of us individually, to get it done. So, we are embarking on a fund-raising campaign throughout the month of September to raise as much money as we can.

God is faithful. He has proven His faithfulness to St. Mark's and to me personally in so many ways. I have no doubt that He will provide exactly what we, the church, and what we individually need. Please pray about what God would have you do for this campaign.

This specific gift needs to be above and beyond regular giving. We need as many people as possible to make a one-time gift in the month of September. Donations need to be marked as "Disaffiliation Fund" donations.

It is the prayer of the finance chair and the finance committee that we would raise enough money in September that a loan is not needed. But if a loan is needed it would be our goal to pay off the loan as soon as possible. Along with the one-time donation please also consider committing to an additional monthly gift to be used for the purpose of paying off a loan. Any Amount will be helpful whether it be \$10 per month or \$100 per month. Receiving the commitment cards will help your finance committee set the terms of the loan *if a loan is needed*.

Thank you for reading this letter and prayerfully considering how you can help. May God clearly guide you as you seek His guidance, and may this effort be met with peace and comfort as we seek God's glory as a church.

Blessings to all,

Mike Kilby

Love . Disciple . Worship . Serve .

STIR UP THE *Fire!* CONFERENCE

Save The Date

An event we hope a lot of St.
Markians are able to attend.

Learn More@ Stirupthefire.com/about

Brent Taylor Live
Spirit
@ TRUTH

A TRAINING AND RENEWAL CONFERENCE FOR
THOSE WHO WANT TO REIGNITE GOD'S GIFT IN
THEMSELVES, THEIR CHURCH & THEIR COMMUNITY.

Sept. 30 - Oct. 1, 2022
Weatherford, Oklahoma

We have been in contact with the Willow Pregnancy Center here in Bethany and they need items to help young women who are pregnant. The items the need right now are:

Winter Coats –newborn to 8

- Winter Clothes – newborn to 6
- Baby Carriers & Bouncy Chairs
- Toys & Books

Blankets

Boy's Shoes Size 2 – 8
Bankers Boxes

You can learn more about the great work they are involved with at:
willowpregnancy.org

willow
PREGNANCY SUPPORT

GREAT JOB ST. MARKIANS

What a great job you did of meeting a need. We were able to raise over \$5200 to help our missionary JeDene Reeder in getting some much needed transportation.



St. Mark's Garden Club

He has made everything beautiful in His Time
Ecclesiastes 3:11

If you would like to be involved in keeping the gardens of St. Mark's maintained and beautiful, please contact Leslie Sipes at 405-850-8743



Mark Your Calendars



CHURCH CENTER

We need you to sign up if you haven't. Imagine being able to have the church calendar, directory, giving and financial records, access to latest news, live services and more available at one spot. On your phone, pad or computer you will always be up to date. This Sunday we will be giving a quick overview of it. To download the app just click on this link and it will walk you through step by step instructions. [Download Church Center](#) The whole process should take just a few minutes.



Staff Emails

If you have questions please feel free to contact the staff.

Randy Wade Revwade5@gmail.com
 Becky Roman becky@stmarksbethany.com
 Sharon Hunt sharon@stmarksbethany.com
 Kayla Gannon kayla@stmarksbethany.com

Bequer Gomez bequer@stmarksbethany.com
 Jackie Swedlow finance@stmarksbethany.com
 Pat Morford pat@stmarksbethany.com

Facts and Figures

2022 Annual Budget	635,934
Rec'd toward Operating 9/5/2022	14, 856
Year to Date 2022	
Rec'd toward offering (thru 8/31/22)	318,801
Expenses (thru 8/31/22)	357,015
Disaffiliation Fund Campaign	
Goal	467,000
Through 9/5/2022 (20 gifts)	72,180
Attendance	
Sunday, August 28 Total	247
Combined Service.....	168
Online	79

Prayer Box

Jane Foreman	Marty Croy
Ronnie Williams (Hickman's friend)	Patsy McDowell
Cheryl Andrews	Dianna & Jeff Davidson
Tiffany Montesano	Paula Galt
Lavina Bonifield (DIL Margaret Bonifield)	Kelli (daughter Cheryl Pavelko)
Ina Walker (sister Bobbi Pinkerton)	Esmeralda Manuel
Mike Kolar (son of Ruth Martyn)	Mary Desmukes

Greetings in the Name of Jesus Christ whose Love, understanding and scriptures support us in all that we do. I pray that the Holy Spirit is now and with you always.

St. Mark's is going through exciting times in the history of its ministry and mission. Opportunities are abundant at St. Mark's and we have many opportunities to demonstrate our long standing history of seeking after God's will through Methodism.

To seek to stay a Bible believing and Holy Spirit filled Church we recently voted to disaffiliate from the United Methodist Church. This means that after the next annual conference we will no longer be part of the United Methodist Church, but it also means that our calling as God's Church continues to be as clear as the day we were founded over 50 years ago.

As we continue to look at our ministries and missions we look forward to the next steps. After contemplation, discussion and prayer our church council has voted to recommend we affiliate with the Global Methodist Church. The Global Methodist Church has been founded to support churches that have Methodist values and connectionalism in their spirit in a bottom up fashion. Churches that are seeking to be open to the Holy Spirit and willing to study and uphold His Scriptures will be able to remain themselves while being part of a National and Global commitment to missions and ministries.

The Global Methodist Church is not asking for a commitment through contract or trust, but is seeking to provide a way for churches, like St. Mark's, to be connectional while remaining autonomous in owning our facilities, supporting our pastors and our congregation. The GMC is seeking to provide support and continuing education for pastors while not forcing a relationship between Churches and pastors. The goal is to listen to churches and help in providing options instead of commands. Our pastor will have opportunities for retirement support, educational support and the coordination of connecting with other pastors, but will also be afforded the opportunity be the pastor of St. Mark's as long as both are happy with the pairing.

The main commitment that GMC is asking is for us to decide as a church, if we want to be an active part in being a member and building this new denomination. On September 18, 2022 between services we will meet together as a church to have a vote on whether we should join the Global Methodist Church. All St. Mark's members will have a say in what we are going to do. I encourage you to do your own research into the GMC and see the opportunities of being at the start of a great organization. The link below is an informational meeting held at St. Mark's on 8/14/22.

[Leah Gregory-Hidde on the GMC](#)

If you have any questions or comments feel free to contact me. I am so blessed to be a part of such an amazing Church!

But even more important I beseech you to continue to study scriptures and be in a constant state of prayer for St. Mark's, its members, missions and ministries.

In Christ

Jay Sears

JaySears12@gmail.com