



ST. MARK'S BETHANY NEWSLETTER

JOIN US FOR WORSHIP!

Epiphany/Baptism of the Lord

This Sunday we celebrate Epiphany and the Baptism of the Lord as we turn to John 1:29-34, where John the Baptist points to Jesus and declares, "Here is the Lamb of God." In this powerful passage, we are reminded of who Jesus is and what His coming means for the world --and for us. As we remember Jesus' baptism, we are also invited to reflect on our own identity as God's beloved children, called to live in the light revealed through Christ. Join us for worship as we praise God, renew our faith, and rejoice in the revelation of Jesus, the One who takes away the sin of 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- Kdgtm)	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

Second Winders to start New Year January 8th

You are invited to start the New Year with the Second Winder's adult group as they gather throughout the year to share meals, programs, and occasionally a day trip. Second Winder's meet on the second Thursday of each month starting at 11:30 am with a gathering in Room 18 of the church. At noon they have a meal, followed by a program.

Start with us on Thursday January 8 at 11:30 am for the gathering, then a meal (usually a \$5.00 donation) which will be ham and beans, cornbread, coleslaw, and desserts. The program, Europe's "Trip on the Rhine" by Phil Davis will follow.

If you would like more information, contact Cheryl Davis at 405-249-1307 or at cdp2church@gmail.com.

Looking forward to seeing you!



A Prayer for Spiritual Growth

When my spiritual vision is foggy, help me to
find my way.

When my understanding is incomplete, open
my mind and increase my patience.

When my indifference blocks my senses,
touch my heart.

When worry or fear raise their voices, speak
to my faith.

Let your Spirit permeate my longings as well
as my living and my loving. Amen.

—Peggy Ferrell, Prayers and Poems

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.

KINGS & QUEENS CHILI COOK-OFF



Join us for a fun and flavorful evening at our Chili Cook-Off on Sunday February 22! Whether you're bringing your best chili recipe or just coming to taste and enjoy the fellowship, it's a night you won't want to miss.

Chili providers should have their chili set up by 4:30 pm, and chili will be served from 5:00-7:00 pm. Tickets are \$5 per person or \$20 per family.

This event is sponsored by the Kings & Queens Ministry and serves as a fundraiser to support their ministry, so come hungry and help make a difference - one bowl at a time.

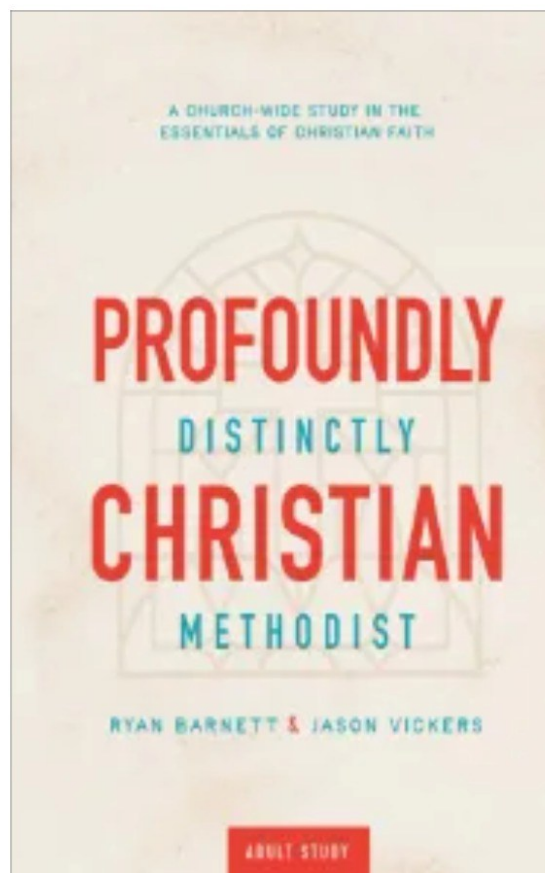
Who will be the winners this year?

New Adult Bible Study Begins January 14

Join us beginning Wednesday, January 14, at 6:30 p.m. for a new 10-week adult Bible study, *Profoundly Christian, Distinctly Methodist*, taught by Kayla and DJ Gannon. This study invites participants to explore the heart of Christian faith and the foundations of Methodist belief -- deepening understanding while encouraging meaningful conversation and growth.

Together, we'll walk through key topics such as God and creation, Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit, the Church, grace, Scripture, the sacraments, and what it means to live a life of faith and discipleship. This study is designed to be both personal and communal, offering space for reflection, discussion, and practical application.

Whether you're new to the faith or have been walking with Christ for many years, this study offers a welcoming place to learn, grow, and journey together.



Learn Why We Worship the Way We Do!



Have you ever wondered...

- Why we say some of the same words every Sunday?
- Why we celebrate Holy Communion every Sunday?
- Why different people help lead worship throughout the year?
- Why the colors in the church change throughout the year?

Join us Saturday, January 17th from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm for a special family-friendly event as we explore the meaning and beauty behind our worship traditions.

Through engaging teaching, hands-on crafts, food, and shared worship, families will discover how worship helps shape our faith and brings us closer to God--together.

(Children must be accompanied by an adult.)

Men's Bible Study Tuesdays at 7:00 pm

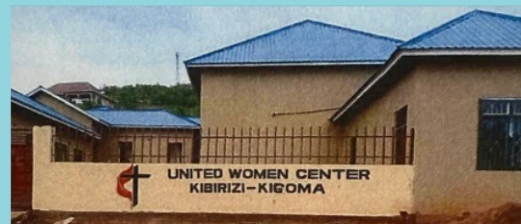
The St. Mark's Men's Bible Study resumes on Tuesday, January 6, at 7:00 pm in Room 17. This group offers a welcoming space for men to gather around God's Word, grow in faith, and encourage one another through thoughtful discussion and prayer. Bring your Bible and join the conversation as we explore Scripture 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.

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. If you are prayerfully considering being part of this mission team, now is the time to think it over and discern where God may be leading you.

A Mission Interest Meeting has already been held, and preparations for the trip are continuing. If you were unable to attend but feel a tug toward this opportunity or would like more information, please reach out to Pastor Randy to stay connected as plans move ahead.



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

WEDNESDAY NIGHT IS BACK

The Youth Group will be back to their regular Wednesday Night programming on January 14th! No programming tonight, but we'll see you next week!

We will still be going to get together for dinner starting at 5:30 PM and worship and lesson will start at 6:15 PM.

Youth Winter Retreat 2026 – Sign Up Now!



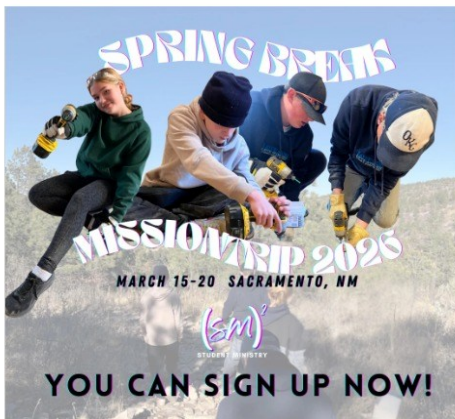
Our youth are heading to **Sky Ranch Cave Springs** for Winter Retreat 2026, and it's going to be an unforgettable weekend! This year's theme is **"Who's Our God?"** based on *Exodus 32* and students will spend February 13-15 growing in faith, building friendships, worshipping together and having plenty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



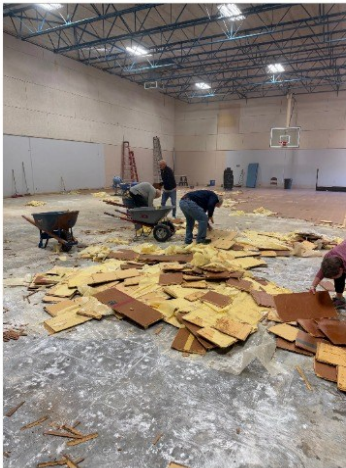
This week will be a great opportunity for our youth to serve others, learn new skills, grow in their faith, and have fun together as they work side by side. Whether this would be a first mission trip or a returning experience, all students are encouraged to consider taking part.

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!

What a Way to Begin! Demo Day Success



What an incredible first day of demolition! Around 50-60 volunteers showed up ready to work, and thanks to their energy, teamwork, and willingness to pitch in, nearly 70% of the demolition was completed in just one day. It was a powerful reminder of what can happen when our church family comes together with a shared purpose.



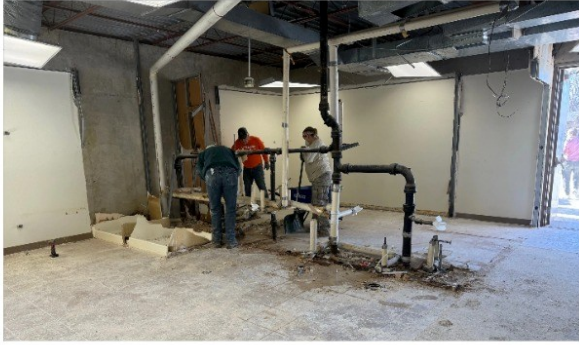
A heartfelt thank-you goes to the St. Mark's Bethany women, who so generously provided breakfast and lunch--fuel that was deeply appreciated by everyone swinging hammers and hauling debris! We are grateful for every person who gave their time, strength, tools, and encouragement.



Day Two--and hopefully the final day--of demolition is scheduled for January 10. If you weren't able to join us the first time, there's still a chance to be part of this exciting milestone as we continue preparing for what's ahead!



More Demo Day Pics



Praying for our Children & Youth in 2026

Sharon Hunt and Bequer Gomez invite our church family to commit to praying for one of St. Mark's children or youth throughout 2026. We have at least 75 children and youth who need to be covered in daily prayer, and we believe God will use this faithful commitment to bring encouragement, growth, and lasting impact in their lives -- strengthening our young people and deepening our connection as a church family. Once you sign up, Sharon or Bequer will contact you with the name of the child or youth you are asked to pray for. Thank you for being a part of this meaningful ministry of prayer.

New Year - New Sunday School Series!



We're excited to invite children and families to a new Sunday School series, Hanging Out with Jesus. This series invites kids to discover the deep and personal love Jesus has for them -- a love that meets us right where we are and invites us to be with Him every day.

Through stories of Jesus calling the disciples, welcoming children, showing compassion to the overlooked, and offering love and grace freely, children will learn that Jesus sees them, knows them, and wants a relationship with them. This series encourages kids to slow down, listen, and recognize that spending time with Jesus through prayer, worship and reflection -- is a meaningful and life-giving part of faith.

We hope this series will help our children grow in their understanding of who Jesus is and how much He loves them, while also encouraging families to create space to "hang out" with Jesus together.

Pour Painting & Faith Night January 14th

On January 14, we are blessed to welcome Sondra Drake, one of our own church members, who will be leading a special pour painting class for our children. Along with the art experience, Sondra will share a meaningful lesson reminding our kids that God doesn't make junk -- each of us is wonderfully and intentionally created by Him.

At the same time, Lauren Stroud, will be working with our younger children, guiding them through a painting lesson designed just for them.

All supplies will be provided -- we simply ask that children wear old clothes or paint clothes, as this will be a hands-on, creative (and potentially messy!) evening.

We invite all families to join us for this fun and faith-filled night of creativity, learning, and celebration of God's love for each child.

SuperStart!

We are excited to share an upcoming opportunity for our 4th-6th grade students to attend SuperStart, a gospel-focused overnight event designed especially for preteens. SuperStart will take place January 30-31 in Tulsa, Oklahoma, and offers a meaningful time of worship, teaching, and spiritual growth.

Because this is an overnight event, students must attend with a parent or guardian, as families will be staying together in a hotel. Parent involvement is essential for this trip and is part of what makes the experience so special.

At this time, we are gathering interest only to help with planning transportation and lodging. This is NOT a final commitment.

Please let us know:

- If you are interested in sending your child
- If a parent or guardian would be available to attend with them

The cost is \$75 per child.

If you have questions or would like more information, please don't hesitate to reach out. We look forward to the possibility of sharing this meaningful overnight worship experience with you and your child.

Upcoming Events

January 7 - Choir Practice
 January 8 - Second Winders
 January 9 - Kings & Queens
 January 10 - Men's Breakfast
 January 10 - Demolition Day 2
 January 11 - Missions Meeting
 January 12 - St. Mark's Bethany Women
 January 13 - Men's Bible Study
 January 17 - Encounter
 January 17 - Demolition Day 2!
 January 19 - Martin Luther King Day
 Office Closed
 January 20 - Administrative Council Mtg
 January 20 - Men's Bible Study
 February 22 - Chili Cook-Off

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

FACTS & Figures

2026 Annual Budget	684,155
Rec'd toward Operating 12/28/25-1/03/2025	35,795
Year to Date 2026	
Rec'd toward offering (thru 1/03/25)	
Expenses (1/03/25)	2,911

ATTENDANCE

Sunday, January 4	Total	266
Traditional Worship		166
Modern Worship		67
Online Worship		33



Prayer Board

Jim Marr	Jennifer and infant son,
Thomas Davis	Jacob (friend of Christy
Carol and Fred Dalton	Kiespert)
Lance Hartzell (family of	Norma and Dan Boland
Steve Ross)	Vickie Wines (grandmother
Finan (great-grandson of	of Chealsie Zink)
Joey Pedigo	Beverly Clark
Frank Wilkerson	Tony Pellegrini
Norma McMurtry	Evelyn Moore
Danielle Quinnett (co-worker	Jim Donnan (father of
of Bekah Wade)	co-worker of Deb Wade)
Ava Norman (grand niece of	Kason (grandson of
Nancy Gray)	Cheryl Pavelko)
Greg Tyler (friend of	Kathi Wagner (Dot Lyon's
Loretta Wright)	daughter, Lory's best
Donna Shriver	friend)
Donna Lautzenhiser	Bill Underwood
Bonnie Fisher (sister-in law	Billy Joe Watson (friend of
to Sandy Kelley &	Wayne Barnes)
Mike Fisher)	Sandy Rutherford
Isaac Roman	Barbara Hill
Cindy Wilkerson	Lief Hill (son of a friend of
Beth (Bidne) Cook	Wayne Barnes)
	Judy McMinn
	Tiffany Montesano