



ST. MARK'S BETHANY NEWSLETTER

JOIN US FOR WORSHIP!

Wesley Covenant Service

As we begin a new year, we invite you to join us for a meaningful Wesley Covenant Service on Sunday January 4. Rooted in the Methodist tradition, this service offers a time of prayer, reflection, and recommitment -- an opportunity to renew our covenant with God and one another as we look ahead to the year before us. Come as you are and begin the new year centered in faith, grace, and hope.

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

thank you

Thank you, St. Mark's family, for the many prayers, kind words, cards, and expressions of love you have shared with me while I've been off. Your support has meant more to me than I can put into words, and I have felt truly held up by this church family every step of the way. I am so deeply grateful to be part of a church that cares so genuinely and loves so well. I'm continuing to heal and look forward to being back in the office as soon as I am able. Thank you for surrounding me with grace, encouragement, and constant prayer.

With a very thankful heart,

Lenita

DIAPER DRIVE for Growing Families

We have two sweet moms in our St. Mark's family preparing to welcome new babies very soon - one of them in December! As their church family, this is our chance to surround them with love in a very practical way.

We're collecting diapers of any size, and we'd love your help. Whether you bring a pack or a whole box, every donation matters. You can drop diapers off in the church office or give them directly to Sharon Hunt.

Let's bless these families as they get ready for their little one's arrival!

And a quick reminder--St. Mark's will continue to celebrate each new mom and baby with a church-wide baby shower, just as we always have. Your gifts for the Diaper Drive simply help us extend the same love and support to moms who are already busy raising little ones at home.

Thank you for helping us care for our newest growing families!

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.

Marriage Conference – January 2 & 3, 2026

Hosted by St. Andrew's Community Church
Open to St. Mark's Couples

Start the new year by investing in one of God's greatest gifts—your marriage. St. Andrew's Community Church is hosting a two-day Marriage Conference, and they are graciously extending the invitation to all St. Mark's couples. Whether your marriage needs encouragement, a tune-up, or simply intentional time together, this conference will offer practical tools and Christ-centered wisdom to help your relationship grow and thrive.

Trey and Amy Dixon from Choosing Love Biblical Counseling will lead the sessions and share their experience and heartfelt guidance.

Ticket price is per couple and includes all conference materials, lunch on Saturday, snacks and childcare. Registration cost is \$145.

Please contact Rev. Josh Coats with any questions you may have by emailing jcoats@saokc.org.

Click this link for more information and to register:



Men's Bible Study Resumes Tuesday, January 6th

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 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.

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.

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 and desserts. A program 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!

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.)



A **BIG thank you** to all of our wonderful Greeters! Your help made the move from the Sanctuary to the gym go extremely smoothly, and we are so grateful for each of you. You are truly appreciated. Wishing you a continued Merry Christmas and a New Year filled with love and good health.

Carol and Fred Dalton
Marty and Clayton Croy.

You're invited to a Baby Shower



A Magical Bundle

is on the way!

Please join us for a Baby Shower honoring

Brecken Cromwell Robertson

January 4th, 2:00 pm
St. Mark's Bethany
Narthex

Registered at Amazon



Capital Campaign: A Thank You from Pastor Randy

2025 has been a wonderful year at St. Mark's and I didn't want the year to end without me saying "thank you".

First and foremost, we give thanks to God from whom all blessings flow. God, as He always is, has been faithful and good. Over and over again, God has come through for us. He provided everything we needed and more. He gave us ideas and resources. He gave us corrections and directions. He gave us power and resilience. He gave us Himself, and He gave us one another. God has been faithful, and we are blessed.

I also want to say "thank you" to the entire St. Mark's community. Time and again, you have responded to God's grace with faith and to the needs around you with faithfulness. The number of hours spent serving God, one another, and our community is incalculable. Your commitment to worship together and to invite others to worship with us has made St. Mark's a vibrant worshipping community that glorifies God and blesses others.



Capital Campaign Update

106 Pledges 1,342,736

Rec'd toward Pledges
12/29/2025 1,031,389

Your generosity of both time and resources has allowed us to participate in many life-changing, eternity-changing, ministries. And, of course, your generosity has also brought us to the threshold of the largest facility upgrade our church has undertaken in decades.

Last, but certainly not least, your continued faithfulness to God's Word and your persistence in prayer have been the bedrock foundation upon which everything else has been built.

For all of this -- and so much more -- let me say once again, on behalf of the entire staff: thank you.
Randy

Rolling Up Our Sleeves

Demolition is expected to begin on Saturday, January 3, and we'd love for you to join us as we roll up our sleeves together. Bring your shovels, tools, or equipment (please make sure everything is labeled), and come ready to help. The ladies of the church will be providing food for the volunteers. And if the photos are any indication, Pastor Randy couldn't wait to get started, already taking a swing at a wall in Barnett Hall -- a fun and symbolic beginning to this exciting new season. He even had a little help!



KINGS & QUEENS CHILI COOK-OFF

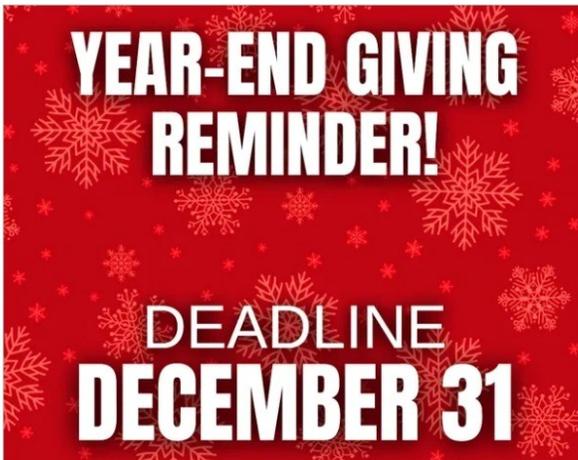


Join us for a fun and flavorful evening at our Chili Cook-Off on Sunday February 22! Whether you're bringing your best chili recipe or just coming to taste and enjoy the fellowship, it's a night you won't want to miss.

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?



End-of-Year Giving Reminder!
To be counted for 2025, donations must be turned in to the church office, scheduled online, or postmarked by *December 31.*

Through your Church Center account, you can:

- Give online anytime
- Check your Capital Campaign pledge progress
- View your entire giving history

Giving statements will be available mid-January.
Thank you for your generosity!
<https://stmarksbethany.churchcenter.com/giving>



Thank you
I THANK YOU FOR DOING THE MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR MY WIFE DIANNA.

DEAR RANDY & ST. MARKS
DIANNA & I WERE MARRIED
THERE 55 YEARS AGO ON
OCT. 17TH 1970 AND I ONLY
THOUGHT IT FITTING THAT HER
SERVICE BE ON DEC. 17 2025.
THANK YOU FOR YOUR COMPASSION
AND HELP THIS IS A CONTRIBUTION
ON BEHALF OF MY WIFE AND HER
FAMILY
JEFF Davidson

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!

Upcoming Events

- December 31 - Office Closed at Noon
- January 1 - HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!
- January 3 - Demolition !!!
- January 6 - Finance Meeting
- January 8 - Second Winders
- January 9 - Kings & Queens
- January 10 - Men's Breakfast
- January 12 - St. Mark's Bethany Women
- January 13 - Men's Bible Study
- January 17 - Encounter

- 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

2025 Annual Budget	632,679
Rec'd toward Operating 12/27/2025	28,820
Year to Date 2025	
Rec'd toward offering (thru 12/27/25)	642,261
Expenses (12/27/25)	625,244

ATTENDANCE

Sunday, December 28	Total	141
Combined Worship		141



Prayer Board

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