



# ST. MARK'S BETHANY NEWSLETTER

## JOIN US FOR WORSHIP!

### The True Light, That Enlightens Everyone, Was Coming

This Sunday, we continue our Advent journey as Pastor Randy brings the message "The True Light, That Enlightens Everyone, Was Coming," based on Matthew 2:1-2. As the Magi followed the star that led them to Christ, we are reminded that God's light shines into the darkness, guiding all who seek Him. Join us as we worship together and reflect on the Light that draws us, leads us, and reveals God's presence among us.

#### 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      |



# Christmas Mission Offering

Our Mission Committee has designated this year's Christmas Eve offering to support our mission partners in Kigoma, Tanzania. In 2021, St. Mark's came alongside our long-time partners in Morogoro to help expand their ministry into the city of Kigoma in western Tanzania. Through your incredible generosity, we were able to raise enough funds to build St. Mark's in Kigoma, which is now a thriving congregation worshipping in a beautiful new building.

In 2023, your giving made it possible to take the next step—raising an even larger amount to build a regional women's center. That facility is now largely complete, and a delegation from St. Mark's will be traveling for its dedication on June 7 of this year.

However, both the church and the women's center still need additional support to fully equip their interiors. With this year's Christmas Offering, our goal is to bring both projects to full completion so they can serve their communities as effectively as possible.

As Christmas draws closer, we will be sharing more details about how we can partner together in this meaningful work. For now, we invite you to begin praying about how God might lead you to participate in this year's offering.

## 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.

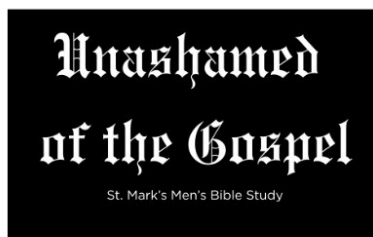
Ticket price is per couple and includes all conference materials, lunch on Saturday, snacks and childcare. Registration cost is \$145.

Please contact Rev. Josh Coats with any questions you may have by emailing [jcoats@saokc.org](mailto:jcoats@saokc.org).

Click this link for more information and to register:



## Men's Bible Study Tuesdays, 7:00 PM



The St. Mark's men's Fall study is "Unashamed of the Gospel". The study meets at 7:00 pm in Room 17. This is Paul's longest letter, which includes some great themes.

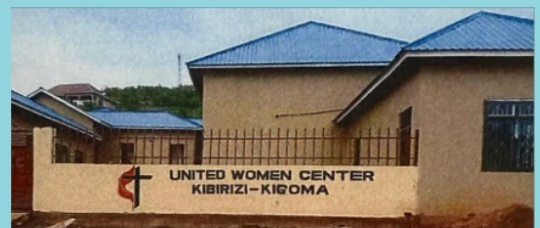
For information, call Fred Dalton at 405-823-7264 or Rev. Allen Smith at 405-620-1861.

Bring your bible and join us.

## 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 this week. If you are considering being part of this mission team, now is the time to pray, think it over, and make your decision.

There will be a Mission Meeting after church this Sunday, November 23rd, for anyone interested in going. If you feel even a small tug toward this opportunity--or if you simply want more information--please plan to attend. Your presence at the meeting will help Pastor Randy know who is seriously considering the trip so preparations can continue.



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





# Candlelight

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

## Candlelight Christmas Eve Services

Join us as we celebrate the birth of Christ with candlelight and worship. We invite you to attend the service that best fits you and your family.

4:00 PM - Family Candlelight Service

7:00 PM - Traditional Candlelight Service

11:00 PM - Modern Candlelight Service

All are welcome. Come and celebrate the light of Christ with us.

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



JOIN US FOR  
ALL CHURCH  
**Caroling**  
SUNDAY,  
DECEMBER 21ST  
6:00 PM

Meet in the Narthex

Everyone is Welcome!

Sign up on the counter or  
call Kelly Jo.



KidMin is enjoying their Advent journey called "Waiting for Jesus" exploring the nativity story and discovering how God kept His promise to send a King--Jesus--just as the prophets foretold.

We're excited to walk through this season with your families as we help our children understand the true wonder of Christmas: the long-awaited arrival of our Savior.

## S'mores, Fire & Family Fun!

You're invited to a fun, relaxed night by the fire at Overholser Lake. We'll have s'mores, hot dogs, and lots of laughter--just bring your family and come hang out with us!



## KidMin December Happenings!

Advent is here--a season of waiting, watching, and celebrating Jesus together! We have so many meaningful (and fun!) ways for families to grow in faith this month. Here's what's coming up:

### Sunday Mornings in December

Our new Sunday series is called "Waiting" --learning from Isaiah and the New Testament how God's people waited with hope. Children will also help decorate and prepare our classrooms for Advent!

### Wednesday Nights

Parents and grandparents are invited to join us on Wednesdays as we explore simple Advent activities that help prepare our hearts for Christmas.

### \*\*\* December 17 - Family S'mores Night \*\*\* TONIGHT!!!

No regular programming this week - instead, we'll gather at the church or the lake (details coming soon!) for s'mores and fellowship. Come enjoy the warmth, fun and gooey goodness!

### December 21 - Churchwide Caroling

Kelly Jo is organizing a festive night of Christmas caroling. All are welcome! Contact Kelly Jo to participate.

### December 24 - Christmas Eve Services

4:00 pm - Family Service (no childcare)

7:00 pm - Traditional Service 9Childcare for ages 5 and under)

11:00 pm - Midnight Communion Service

**We can't wait to worship, wait, and celebrate the arrival of our Savior with you all month long!**



# 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](mailto: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!



# A Christmas Made Brighter by YOU!



What a joyful celebration it was at our Kings and Queens Christmas Party! Because of the incredible generosity of our church family, every child received gifts, smiles were everywhere, and the love of Christ was shared in the most tangible and meaningful way. *"Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!"* (2 Corinthians 9:15)--a gift reflected through each act of kindness and generosity shared. We are especially grateful for the many donations from our congregation, the St. Mark's Bethany Women, the Sunshine Class and the Rock Class, along with everyone who gave so freely to support Kings and Queens this season. Thank you for helping make Christmas merry and bright for our families. The photos capture just a glimpse of the joy, laughter, and gratitude that filled the room that evening.





# Upcoming Events

TONIGHT - No Regular Wednesday Night Programs

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

December 21 - Christmas Caroling

December 24 - Christmas Eve Services  
(4:00, 7:00. & 11:00 PM)

December 25 - MERRY CHRISTMAS!!!

December 26 - Office Closed

December 28 - Combined Service

December 31 - Office Closed at Noon

January 1 - HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!

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<br>12/13/2025 .....     | 18,234  |
| Year to Date 2025                              |         |
| Rec'd toward offering<br>(thru 12/13/25) ..... | 603,977 |
| Expenses (12/13/25) .....                      | 605,323 |

### ATTENDANCE

|                           |       |     |
|---------------------------|-------|-----|
| Sunday, December 14       | Total | 328 |
| Traditional Worship ..... |       | 158 |
| Modern Worship .....      |       | 49  |
| Online Worship .....      |       | 117 |



## Prayer Board

|   |  |
|---|--|
| Family of Dianna Davidson   | Norma and Dan Boland                                   |
| Frank Wilkerson   | Vickie Wines (grandmother of Chealsie Zink)            |
| Danielle (co-worker of Bekah Wade)                                    | Beverly Clark  |
| Eilene Nelson (mother of Joey Pedigo's DIL)                           | Tony Pellegrini  |
| Family of Nancy & Steve Gray  | Evelyn Moore   |
| Norma McMurtry  | 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   |
| Jerry & Bonnie Fisher (brother and SIL to Sandy Kelley & Mike Fisher) | Billy Joe Watson (friend of Wayne Barnes)              |
| Kevin (son of Becky & Steve Chessmore)                                | Sandy Rutherford                                       |
| Isaac Roman   | Barbara Hill   |
| Cindy Wilkerson   | Lief Hill (son of a friend of Wayne Barnes)            |
| Beth (Bidne) Cook   | Judy McMinn  |
| Jennifer and infant son, Jacob (friend of Christy Kiespert)           | Tiffany Montesano                                      |
|   | Maggie Peterson  |