

March 6, 2019

E-Messenger

Our Mission Statement To build a family of believers who glorify God and help each other become fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ

General Conference 2019

Thank you for sending Adrienne and me to observe General Conference 2019 (GC). The conference was held at The Dome, St. Louis, February 23-26.

A letter from our Bishop

I would like to share some reflections but allow me to first share Bishop Nunn's letter to us:

"The conference voted to retain the traditional definition of marriage, continued the policy that does not provide for clergy to officiate or churches to host same gender weddings, and continues the current standards for ordination.

"The conference adopted legislation requiring bishops to provide additional certification that they will uphold provisions of the *Discipline* or face involuntary changes in relationship with the church, to insure persons nominated to credentialing bodies uphold all the *Discipline*, and to guide the process for the administration of complaints.

Continued on page 3

ASH
WEDNESDAY
SERVICE



Wednesday, March 6th, 6:15 pm

Spring Forward!



Daylight
Savings
Begins

SUNDAY, MARCH 10th

ALA

KAZAM!

WITH YOUR HELP, SOME LEFTOVER CHANGE CAN BECOME
1000'S OF YUMMY MEALS FOR ORPHANED CHILDREN.

 **RICE BOWLS**

 **RICE BOWLS**

This Lenten season we will have the opportunity to make a difference in amazing kids lives. Rice bowls is an amazing organization feeding, orphaned and hungry children. On May 6th, you will have the opportunity to pick up your rice bowl and start filling it for hungry kids. Challenge your friends, members in your family, give up a drink a day and drop that change in the rice bowl and we will gather them all together on Easter morning and make a real difference. Watch for stories, and more information about the many ways Rice Bowls can make a difference and then pick up your rice bowl on or after the 6th and start filling those Rice Bowls.

Spring Break



Bible Club March 18-21 12:30-2:30

**St. Marks East Lawn
Children ages 4-11**

**Lunch Provided
All Free - Space Limited**

Register @ stmarksbethany.com



Second Wonders
will meet for a noon
meal on Thursday,
March 14th. The



cost for the sloppy Joe and
dessert meal is \$5. Darrel Brehm, a ham
operator, will present our program. We
will be collecting for the Skyline Urban
Ministry food pantry. They are in need of
cereals, pastas and hand
or dish soap. (The manager
says these are least expen-
sive at Aldi's.)



GATHERING PLACESM
TULSA'S RIVERFRONT PARK

St. Mark's Family Outing

Friday, March 22nd

Leave church 8 am

Join us as we head to Tulsa for a great day of family fun. We will caravan from the church and head for one of the hottest places in the country for families, "The Gathering Place" in Tulsa for a day of fun. We will eat at the park and need everyone to bring their own sack lunch (food trucks available if you would prefer). You can sign up on the church counter to let us know you are planning to be a part. Sign up and join us for this great St. Mark's Family event.

(Continued from page 1)

"These matters were referred to the Judicial Council for a declaratory ruling regarding their constitutionality. When the Judicial Council releases their findings after their review of the legislation, the Church will then know what has been enacted. For now, please continue to pray for the church, for all who have felt pain and harm from the proceedings, and for God to guide us in the path ahead.

"A plan for a church to disaffiliate from the denomination was approved.

"The Oklahoma Conference delegates dedicated themselves to tasks before them. The process was emotionally challenging for everyone in the room, regardless of their convictions. Thank you for your prayers before and during the meeting. Please continue to pray for the church."

Why was the Conference called?

The task before GC was to determine how we might remain united as one church while holding two mutually exclusive understandings of human sexuality.

What was decided?

Considering the expectations leading up to GC, perhaps what is remarkable is how little actually changed. The 864 delegates from around the world voted definitively to:

1. Affirm the Church teaching on human sexuality, that the *practice* of homosexuality is incompatible with Christian teaching,
2. Hold clergy, including bishops, accountable to follow the rules they vow to uphold at their ordination, and
3. Allow congregations who cannot live by the rules of the church regarding human sexuality, to leave with the blessing of those who remain. The terms of exit and the constitutionality of this decision are not yet clear.

Each decision of GC will be reviewed to determine whether it meets the constitutional requirements of the UMC.

Some other thoughts and observations

Did a winner emerge from GC? I would say that no one "won." The results reflect deep division within the UMC in the US and Europe, while the UMC located in other parts of the world is more united on these issues.

St. Mark's will continue to welcome and share the Gospel with all.

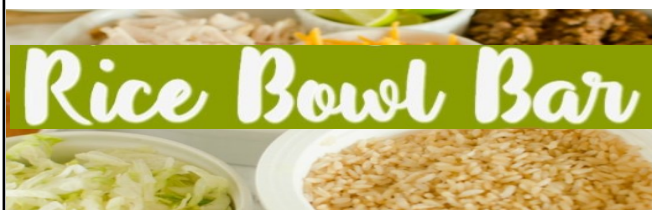
Both Adrienne and I are happy to visit about our experiences at GC2019.

Peace, mercy and grace,

Pastor Keith

The next General Conference will be at Minneapolis, May 5-15, 2020. Delegates will be elected this Spring during regional conferences around the world. In Oklahoma, we will elect delegates during Annual Conference, May 28-30, 2019 at Oklahoma City University.

Dinner On Wednesday Night



Every Wednesday from 5:30-6:15
Everyone welcome. Cost is only \$3.

Wednesday Programming

5:15 Strength/Stretch Class

5:30 D.O.W.N. Dinner

6:00 Prayer Team

6:15 Adult Studies

6:15 KID Team

6:15 Student Ministry

6:15 Adult Studies

6:30 Choir Rehearsal

Women's Bible Study

The Women's Bible study group has changed their meeting times to the 1st and 3rd Monday of each month. They are still reading and discussing the book "Wait and See" by Wendy Pope. Their next meeting will be on March 15. All women are invited to join these ladies as they grow in fellowship and faith together. If you would like more information about the group you can contact Kayla Gannon at kayla@stmarksbethany.com. Watch the Facebook page for latest information St Marks Women's Bible Study

Wednesday Nights 6:15 –7:30

Men's Bible

Women's Bible



MY ONE WORD

CHANGE YOUR LIFE WITH JUST ONE WORD



Our next Men's Breakfast will be on the 8th of March. We will have breakfast will be at 8:00 am and should be done by 9 am. Feel free to invite a friend, or bring your kids.



Kings and Queens will have their next respite care on Friday, March 8th. Please be in prayer for this growing ministry. If you are interested in being a volunteer in this ministry you can contact Kayla Gannon and she will help you begin the process to be a part. This is a wonderful way to share the love of Christ.

LIGHT

2019 Oklahoma Women's Retreat
April 12-13
Falls Creek Convention Center
Registration \$75 through March 4
Register at:
www.bgcocomen.org/okretreat
Group Leader Name: Kayla Gannon
E-mail Kaya@stmarksbethany.com

SPEAKERS

 Lysa TerKeurst	 Rosaria Butterfield	 Caleb Freeman	 Point of Grace	 For All Seasons
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Optional to buy the t-shirt on registration.\

St. Mark's is going to have their own t-shirt for the event.

For more information contact Kayla Gannon or Sharon Hunt

We hope you take advantage of
this great event at a great price.

Prices go up after March 4th, Sign up Today!

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

SUNDAY MORNING:

Ages: Nursery - Kindergarten
Elementary Age 1st - 5th grade
Time 9:30 am - 10:45 am
10:45 am - 12:00 pm

Current lesson Plan

"Extreme"

Studying Bible stories that are extreme. God goes to great lengths to reach, love and guide us.



EARLY CHILDHOOD MINISTRY DIRECTOR:

Sharon Hunt

Phone: 789-9033

Email: sharon@stmarksbethany.com

WEDNESDAY EVENING:

D.O.W.N. Dinner - 5:30-6:15
Team KID - 6:15—7:00

Going Vertical is a team used today to indicate reaching their highest and best. On Wednesday's we seek to go vertical with God.



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY DIRECTOR:

Alicia Schneider

Phone: 789-9033

Email: alicia@stmarksbethany.com

Volunteers
Needed



Volunteers are needed for VBS in early June. If you would be willing to help please contact Kirsten Collins.

**COMING SPECIAL
EVENTS**

Ap

**WEAR
GREEN**
DAY
Sunday
March 17th

March 21st 10 am

GATHERING PLACE
TULSA'S RIVERFRONT PARK


**Messy
Easter**
April 17, 5:30 pm

**Easter
Egg
Hunt**
APRIL 20TH



STUDENT MINISTRY

I hope you're well! Spring has been great so far! I've started going to school lunches with students, and I've got to say, those lunches are the best part of my week! We have amazing youth!

There's so much to look forward to! Here's what's going on!

Thunder Game!

I don't have the date set yet, but I've been talking with the Thunder people about either March 13th or March 27th! I'll keep you posted!

Spring Break Mission!

- This is for both Middle School and High School students!
- March 18-21 the youth are leading a Bible Club for local kids (this includes St. Mark's kids). The Bible Club will be from 12:30-2:30 and the youth and leaders will need to be there from 12-3.
- March 22-23 we'll be celebrating on a trip to Six Flags over Texas! We're leaving early Friday morning and we'll be back midday on Saturday.
- Students must participate in each day of the mission in order to go to Six Flags. Guests are the exception. They can go to Six Flags without having participated in the mission.
- The Six Flags trip costs \$160, while the mission has no cost to students. Let me know if there's a scholarship need! STRIVE covers so many of our students! (Shout out again to the students who amazingly raised so much money for STRIVE!)
- There are three mandatory planning sessions during the Sunday School hour on March 3rd, 10th, and 17th. If a student isn't participating in the mission, they should still come to Sunday School on these days, because they'll undoubtedly have some great ideas!
- Registration forms will be out this week!! They're due March 6th!

Camp and Summer Mission Dates

- Disciple, May 31-June 3
- **Youth Force, June 16-21** (I accidentally originally told everyone the dates were June 16-24. That was incorrect. Sorry!)
- Dayspring, July 5-8

Parents and Leaders, with all upcoming events, please, let me know what you're interested in and available to help with asap!

Please, let me know if you have questions or ideas! I love you all and I'm so thankful to be serving you!

GO TEAM!

Lydia Cressman

Director of Student Ministries



LENT
— 40 Days Of Renewal —
March 6-April 20

A Thank you from Putnam City Share Care to St. Mark's. See some of the thank you cards from the children in the narthex.

*To our wonderful friends at St. Mark's
Thank you so much for coming
on board to help with Putnam City
CareShare. The children at Overholser
had a much brighter Christmas
because of you! Enclosed are some
thank you notes from families
you adopted. Again, we truly
appreciate you! Sincerely,
Dondra Floresca, CareShare*

Prayer Targets 2019
Council Grove Elementary
Overholser Elementary
Yukon newer residents
House groups
Outreach Your neighbors

Food Pantry

St. Mark's is in the process of kicking off a Food Pantry ministry in the near future.

Plans are to use the small kitchen. If you have anything stored in the small kitchen please take a few minutes to remove it in the next couple of weeks. If you are interested in helping with the food pantry or have any questions you can contact DJ or Kayla Gannon. **There will be a meeting this coming Sunday at 4 pm at St. Mark's for those interested in being a part of this ministry.**



Kieth	Ballard	Brianna	Hardin	Ivy	Norvell
Nicholas	Bentin	Becky	Harned	Nevada	Norvell
Ed	Boerner	Darlene	Hickman	Mary	Parker
Chris	Brehm	Kruse	Holliday	Roger	Pautsch
Carla	Brueggen	Megan	Johnston	Brian	Ray
Matt	Chaney	Harold	Kessler	Preston	Risinger
Adrienne	Cressman	Chris	Knowles	Kyphla	Sadler
Brad	Cromwell	Dorothy	Lynch	Jenny	Shenold
Jeff	Davidson	Ruth	Martyn	Esther	Underwood
Jillian	Ferguson	Dave	Moore	Lauren	Wurzer
Victor	Gammill	Don	Nobles	Evelyn	York

Facts and Figures

2019 Annual Budget605,361
Rec'd toward Operating 2/24/2019 9,196

YTD 2019

Rec'd toward Operating 2/24/2019 72,563
Expenditures 2/24/201874,985

Attendance

Sunday, March 3
Worship 175
Sunday School 120

Prayer Box

Kieth Ballard
Beverly Clark
Harold Kessler
Knutson/Pavelko family
Funk family
Laurie Bucholtz
Barbara Homer
John Baumeister
Edith Chilcutt
Carolyn Bright family
Derwin Jones

David Sears family
Barbara Gardner
Earl Moore
Wenonah Shaw
Cheryl Pavelko
Teresa Kruta
Betty Underwood
Jason Talbot
Clint Hutchison
Glenda Morrison
Mike Fisher
Boerner family health