



ST. MARK'S BETHANY NEWSLETTER

JOIN US FOR WORSHIP!

To The Ends of the Earth: *"Jerusalem to Rome: Prophecy Fulfilled"*

This Sunday, we conclude our summer series, **To the Ends of the Earth**, as Paul's journey moves ever closer to Rome.

In **"Jerusalem to Rome: Prophecy Fulfilled,"** we'll see how God remained at work through uncertainty, the opposition Paul faced, and unexpected turns--fulfilling His promise and moving the mission forward.

Join us as we celebrate the conclusion of this incredible journey through Acts and are reminded that the same Gospel that traveled from Jerusalem to the ends of the earth is still ours to share today.

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 our Traditional service.

To watch the live stream, please join us at:

9:30 am Sunday morning



Sunday School Classes

We have classes for all ages and interests

CHILDREN

"Seeds" (Ages 0-18 mos)	9:30 - 12:00
"Sprouts" (Ages 18 mo-3 yrs)	9:30 - 10:35
Kidmin 1 (Elementary)	9:30 - 10:35
Kidmin 2 (Elementary)	11:00 - 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

ENCOUNTER

A 4-WEEK JOURNEY
INTO WORSHIP

BEGINNING WEDNESDAY,

♥ AUGUST 26 ♥
TONIGHT

Beginning tonight, **Wednesday, August 26**, join us for **Encounter**, a four-week journey into what worship really means, why we do what we do, and how it shapes our lives beyond Sunday morning.

Each week, we'll explore a different part of worship:

- The Heart of Worship
- The Beauty of Worship
- The Order of Worship
- The Lifestyle of Worship

Come enjoy dinner at 5:30 p.m., then join us for **Encounter** from 6:00 - 7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary.

No matter where you are in your understanding of worship, this is a chance to go deeper into both the what and why behind what we do, while discovering how worship connects us more deeply with God.

Come for dinner. Stay for Encounter.



Join us on **Tuesday evenings from 7:00 - 8:00 p.m.** or **Wednesday mornings from 10:30 - 11:30 a.m.**

Here are a few pics from last night thanks to Fred Dalton!



Faith doesn't end on Sunday.
Come grow, share, and continue the conversation with us.

Wednesday Nights

RETURN TONIGHT!

Wednesday Night Ministries *return* TONIGHT!



Dinner begins at **5:30 pm**,
with **Encounter Worship** to follow.



All ages welcome!

FOOD. FELLOWSHIP. FAITH.

Reminder!



SEPTEMBER 6TH
WILL BE
ONE SERVICE
at 10 a.m.



SEE YOU AT 10:00!



Just a reminder that on **Sunday, September 6**, we will have **ONE** worship service at 10:00 a.m. This will be a wonderful opportunity for our entire St. Mark's church family to come together in one service for worship and fellowship.

Please mark you calendar, adjust your usual Sunday morning routine, and join us at 10:00 a.m. We look forward to worshipping together as one church family!

SAVE THE DATE! St. Mark's **Fall** Picnic Sunday, September 20

Mark your calendars for one of our favorite fall traditions! **St. Mark's Fall Picnic** is **Sunday, September 20**. We'll provide the grilled hamburgers and hot dogs -- you bring a covered dish to share, along with your lawn chairs and blankets.

Come ready for good food, great fellowship, and plenty of fun! We'll have games and activities for the kids and lots of time to relax, visit, and enjoy being together as a church family.

Save the date and plan to join us!

St. Mark's Bethany
FALL Picnic!

Sunday, **SEPTEMBER 20**
STARTS AT **5:00 PM**
ON THE **EAST LAWN!**

WE'LL PROVIDE
GRILLED BURGERS
& HOT DOGS!

YOU BRING A
Covered Dish
TO SHARE!

BRING YOUR
Lawn Chairs
& BLANKETS!

GAMES & FUN
FOR THE KIDS!

GOOD FOOD
GREAT FRIENDS
BEAUTIFUL FALL DAY!

Everyone
IS INVITED!

Let's make memories together! ♥

Church Construction Update from Pastor Randy

We are getting close! As I write this on Wednesday, the new Family Restroom is nearly completed and may be operational by this Sunday. In Barnett Hall, the new flooring and lights are in, the ceiling tiles are on hand and will be put up soon, and the new bathrooms are nearing completion. There may be a few details left to finish, but we should have Barnett Hall operational in a few weeks. Even the Family Life Center and Youth Room are not far away. Drywall is completed, paint will soon follow and then the handrail for the mezzanine will be installed. New lighting is on hand and will be installed soon. The same is true of the flooring. The new bathrooms and showers are also nearly completed. We have ordered the banquet chairs and tables and expect them to arrive about the same time work is completed. It has taken awhile, but the end of Phase 1 is certainly in sight.

We wanted to give ourselves a brief respite and not have the church torn up during the Advent and Christmas season. Therefore, Phase 2, which will be work on the front bathrooms and narthex, will begin in January of 2027.

Financially, we continue to do well. We have received \$1,248,047 to this point, which is well ahead of where we expected to be at this point. Our hope and prayer is that we significantly exceed our goal and have money to complete all the projects that were identified as needed when we first began this process.

Thank you for being a church that is willing to attempt difficult things and faithful to see them through. Your prayers, your generosity, and your patience have been exemplary and have us in a better place than we would have been otherwise. God has blessed us all through the process and all glory is His, but I am also grateful for your part in all of it. It will feel good to celebrate the completion of this first phase in just a few short weeks.

Randy



Capital Campaign Update

106 Pledges 1,318,719

Rec'd toward Pledges
04/26/2026 1,248,047

St. Mark's Bethany SAFE CHURCH Policy



At St. Mark's Bethany, we prioritize the safety and well-being of our children and youth. In accordance with our commitment to maintaining a secure environment, we have established the following access policy for the children's programming areas:

****Authorized Access:****

Only children, parents, or approved caregivers are permitted to enter or traverse through the designated children's areas during the following hours:

****Sunday:** 9:00 AM - 12:15 PM**

****Monday, Tuesday, & Thursday:** 8:30 AM - 2:30 PM**

****Wednesday:** 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM**

****Restricted Access:****

For the safety of our children, we kindly ask that all other individuals refrain from entering or passing through these areas during the specified hours, except in cases of emergency or to access emergency exits.

This policy aligns with St. Mark's Procedure for the Implementation of the Safety Policy for Children, Youth, and Vulnerable Adults (Refer to Paragraph 2.c.).

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation in ensuring a secure environment for our children.



Step Right Up, Second Winders!



The sights and sounds of the State Fair are coming to Second Winders!

Second Winders will kick off the fall season with a fun **State Fair-themed gathering on Thursday, September 10, beginning at 11:30 a.m.**

Come hungry and enjoy a delicious lunch featuring **State Fair favorites**, followed by a special performance from the **Cottonwood Creek Cloggers!**

You won't need a ticket of a trip to the fairground--just come ready for good food, great entertainment, and plenty of fellowship with friends.




Calling All Crafters!

Do you enjoy sewing, painting, woodworking, jewelry-making, quilting, or creating handmade items? The St. Mark's Bethany Women's group is preparing for our Arts & Crafts Show on **OCTOBER 3RD** and would love your help!



We're inviting crafters to **donate handmade items** to be sold in our booth. Proceeds from the booth will go back into our community to support local charities.



.....*If you'd like to participate, please contact*.....



Carol Brown | 405-823-1345

♥ *Thank you for using your talents to make a difference!* ♥

Our Local Missions

At St. Mark's, we love being part of what God is doing not only around the world, but right here in our own community. Through partnerships with ministries like Willow Pregnancy Support and ROC, we have the opportunity to share Christ's love in meaningful, hands-on ways.

Because of your prayers, generosity, and willingness to serve, lives are being touched, needs are being met, and hope is being shared—right here at home.



We're excited to share that Willow Pregnancy Support has moved to a new location at 4107 N. Council in Bethany! Willow continues to be a place of care, encouragement, and practical support for families in our community.

They currently welcome donations of children's clothing (newborn through size 6), shoes (up to size 13), diapers (sizes 4-6), as well as bottles, bath wash, lotion, and Good Start formula.

Thank you for being part of the love and support we're able to share through this ministry!



Our partnership with ROC continues to be a simple but powerful way to care for neighbors in need. One of the main ways we support ROC is through donations of canned and boxed food.

Right now, green beans, corn and soup are especially needed, but any nonperishable food items are greatly appreciated. Grocery items can be placed in the Grocery Basket in the Narthex.

Thank you for helping us make a difference—one meal, one family at a time.

The ROC thrift store and drop-off center has moved, The new address is:
5107 N MacArthur
Warr Acres

We're Hiring!

St. Mark's Bethany Global Methodist Church

Ministry Leader

Kings and Queens Ministry

St. Mark's is seeking a compassionate and organized Ministry Leader for the Kings and Queens Ministry to develop, coordinate, and grow a biblically based ministry serving children with special needs and their families. This role will focus on faith formation, family support, volunteer coordination, and respite care programming, while partnering with church leadership to ensure the ministry reflects the mission and vision of St. Mark's.

Focus Areas

- Faith Formation
- Family Support
- Volunteer Coordination
- Respite Care Programming

*Help families feel **seen**, **supported**, and **loved**.*

Resumes may be emailed to lenita@stmarksbethany.com

Called to Serve • Rooted in Faith • Together in Love

St. Mark's is looking for someone special to lead our **Kings and Queens Ministry**! Perhaps that person is already part of our church family--or perhaps you know just the right person. If you're interested or know someone who might be a great fit, please let us know.

St. Mark's Women to Meet September 14th

All women of the church are invited to join us on Monday, September 14, at 10:00 a.m. in Room 18 for our next St. Mark's Bethany Women's gathering.

Mark your calendar and plan to join us for as wonderful morning of food, fun and fellowship!

More information coming soon!



St. Mark's Bethany

Women's CRAFT SHOW

OCTOBER 3RD

10:00 am – 3:00 pm

Calling All Vendors!

Join us for a day of shopping, supporting local artisans, and celebrating creativity!

We are looking for vendors to be a part of our fun and festive Craft Show.

Interested in being a vendor?

Contact Carol Brown at
or the church at 405-789-9033
for more information or to reserve your spot!

Back to School, St. Mark's Style!



What a wonderful way to begin a new school year!



Last Sunday, our St. Mark's family gathered for our **Back to School Breakfast**, enjoying good food, fellowship, and lots of smiles before worship. It was a special morning to celebrate our students and teachers as they begin another year of learning, growing, and making a difference.



During each worship service, we also shared a special **Back to School Blessing**, surrounding our children and teachers with prayer as they begin the new school year. What a meaningful reminder that wherever this year takes them, they go with the prayers, encouragement, and love of their church family.



Thank you to everyone who helped make the morning so special. And to our students and educators--**may God bless you, guide you, and walk with you throughout the school year ahead!**



Hey MOMS, DADS & KIDS!

Have you checked out the grids lately?

There's lots of **NEW** stuff waiting for you! Pick up a family devotion, grab a Know-Me-Note, or discover another simple way to connect at home.

These resources are designed to help families **talk together, grow closer together, and grow closer to God**--one little moment at a time.

Stop by the grids and **TAKE SOMETHING HOME** this week! ❤️



The Gathering

A COMMUNITY FOR MOMS
of babies + toddlers

Moms, you're invited! ❤️

Join us each **Wednesday** morning from **9:30–11:00 am** in **Room 19** for The Gathering, a welcoming time for moms to connect, encourage one another, and grow in faith while your little ones are lovingly cared for by our Titus 2 volunteers. Whether you're a first-time mom or have older preschoolers, we'd love to have *you join us!* ❤️

We can't wait to see you! ❤️

KidMin sprouts

 Ages 18 Months–3 Years

 Beginning September 13

 9:30 Worship Hour

Led by

Miss Christy Couch

Something new is **sprouting** in KidMin! 🌱 Beginning **September 13**, KidMin Sprouts will provide a special place for our littlest ones, ages **18 months through 3 years**, during the **9:30 a.m. worship hour**. Led by **Miss Christy Couch**, Sprouts will give young children an opportunity to begin learning about God's love in a fun, nurturing, age-appropriate environment. We're excited to watch these little ones **sprout and grow in faith!**

THE LUNCH TABLE

BACK TO SCHOOL SERIES

BEGINNING AUGUST 23RD IN KIDMIN

Our KidMin children kicked off **The Lunch Table** back-to-school series on Sunday with lots of fun and some important lessons about kindness, friendship, and including others.

Using the familiar setting of the school lunchroom, children are discovering practical ways to show God's love to everyone they meet.

This Sunday, August 30, the fun continues!

KidMin 1 (9:30 a.m.)

- *Loving the Lunchroom Bully*

KidMin 2 (11:00 a.m.)

- *Packing Your Lunchbox*

As our children head back to school, *The Lunch Table* is helping them learn how to navigate friendships and challenges while remembering that following Jesus makes a difference in the way we treat others every day.

Join us this Sunday for the final week of **The Lunch Table**!



Growing in God's Love Every Week!

Join us in **KidMin 2** (during the 11:00 a.m. service) and on **Wednesday nights** as we discover how the Fruit of the Spirit helps us live more like **Jesus!**



LOVE



GOODNESS



JOY



FAITHFULNESS



PEACE



GENTLENESS



PATIENCE



SELF-CONTROL



KINDNESS

The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.

GALATIANS 5:22-23

There's Room at God's Table!

Sunday was all about making room for others **At the Table!** As part of *The Lunch Table* back-to-school series, our KidMin children learned about kindness, friendship, and including others--important lessons to carry with them into the new school year. Through games, activities, and lots of fun, they discovered how they can show God's love to everyone they meet!



Youth: Growing in Faith Together

There's plenty happening for our older youth! **High School Bible Study** meets **Sunday, August 30**, while Sunday mornings continue with a study of the lives of **Elijah and Elisha in 1 Kings**.

On Wednesday nights, youth will join the **Worship Encounter**, and the whole family is invited to come and experience it together. It's a great time for our youth to connect, dig deeper into God's Word, and grow in their faith.



ONE SUNDAY a Month. AN ETERNAL DIFFERENCE.

Follow Jesus. Make a Difference.

Jesus welcomed children with open arms—
and you can help us do the same.

Our KidMin ministry is looking for a few caring volunteers to help create a safe, fun, and Christ-centered environment where children can learn about God's love. Whether you can serve once a month or be available as a substitute, your time makes an **eternal difference**.



CURRENT OPPORTUNITIES DIFFERENCE MAKER OPPORTUNITIES



KIDMIN SEEDS (BIRTH-18 MONTHS)

- Volunteers needed during **1st and 2nd hour**
- Serve the **3rd Sunday** of each month



- Assistant needed during the **9:30 a.m.** service
- Commitment: **Once each month**

- Assistant needed during the **11:00 a.m.** service
- Serve the **3rd Sunday** of each month

KIDMIN RESPONSE TEAM

We also need a few volunteers who are willing to step in when someone is sick or unable to serve. If you're flexible and enjoy helping wherever you're needed, we'd love to have you on our **Response Team**.

EVERY CHILD.
EVERY STORY.
EVERY LIFE.
ETERNALLY IMPACTED.



Every smile, every hug, every story, and every prayer helps plant seeds of faith that can last a lifetime.



*Ready to make
a difference?*



Contact Sharon

to learn more or sign up to serve.

Help Build Our Titus 2 Team

Love LITTLE ONES?
JOIN THE
Titus 2 Team!

CARE FOR OUR YOUNGEST | SUPPORT FAMILIES IN FAITH | MAKE AN ETERNAL DIFFERENCE | BE PART OF SOMETHING BEAUTIFUL

A little time. A lasting impact.

We're looking for caring adults who enjoy spending time with babies and toddlers while parents participate in Bible studies and church activities.

No teaching required. Just a caring heart and a willingness to love our youngest children.

If you'd like to learn more about serving on the Titus 2 Team, **contact Sharon Hunt**.

DIFFERENCE MAKERS TRAINING

EQUIP • ENCOURAGE • EMPOWER

*Let's grow
TOGETHER
in ministry!*



SEEDS, SPROUTS &
TITUS 2 TRAINING



WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 2



4:30 PM



CHILDREN'S AREA



WEDNESDAY KIDMIN
DIFFERENCE MAKERS TRAINING



WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 9



4:30 PM



CHILDREN'S AREA

*Thank you for making
a difference in the lives of kids!*

Bags of Blessings for Overholser!

Because of the generosity of our St. Mark's family, teachers at Overholser Elementary began their school year with a little extra encouragement!

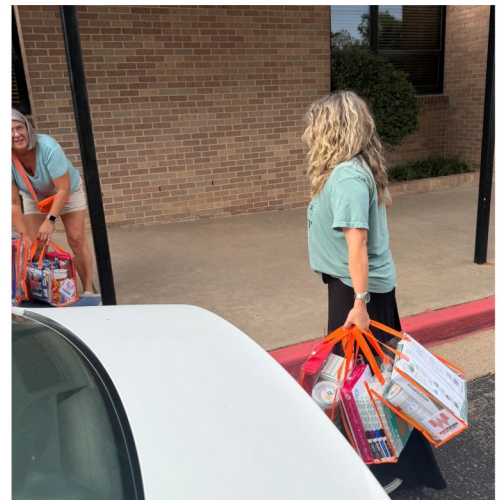


Our congregation donated supplies and filled bags with items especially for the teachers, letting them know how much their hard work and dedication are appreciated. The bags were delivered to the school and received with many smiles and a great deal of gratitude.

Thank you to everyone who donated and helped make this outreach possible. Sometimes something as simple as a bag of supplies can carry a much bigger message:

We see you. We appreciate you. And we're praying for you.

What a beautiful way for St. Mark's to share Christ's love right here in our own community.



Upcoming Events

Aug 26 - WEDNESDAY NIGHT MEAL
Pizza & Ice Cream

6:00 pm Encounter Worship
7:00 pm Choir Practice

Aug 26 - The Gathering/Titus 2

Aug 26 - Beyond Sunday 2

Aug 29 - BSF Leaders Workshop

Aug 30 - Missions Meeting

Sept 2 - The Gathering/Titus 2

Sept 6 - One Service

Sept 7 - Office Closed

Sept 12 - Men's Breakfast

Sept 14 - St. Mark's Bethany Women

Sept 20 - Fall Picnic

Sept 21 - Wrapped in Love

Sept 23 - The Gathering/Titus 2

Communion Servers - August 30

Traditional: Steve & Christie Couch
David & Jill Morgan
Ed & Gina Boerner

Modern: Mike & Sally Kilby
Aimee & Lincoln Jenks

FACTS & Figures

2026 Annual Budget	684,155
Rec'd toward Operating 8/22/2026	10,660
Year to Date 2026	
Rec'd toward offering (thru 8/22/26)	411,590
Expenses (thru 8/22/26) ..	416,036

ATTENDANCE

Sunday, August 23	Total	333
Traditional Worship	199	
Modern Worship	47	
Online Worship	87	

Need Someone to Walk With You?



**STEPHEN
MINISTRY**
Christ caring • for people • through people

None of us is meant to carry life's burdens alone.

Stephen Ministers are caring members of St. Mark's who are trained to provide confidential, one-on-one Christian support during difficult times.

Whether you're experiencing grief, illness, loneliness, caregiving, or another life challenge, a Stephen Minister is available to listen, encourage, pray, and walk alongside you.

Hope begins with a conversation.



Contact one of our Stephen Ministers, or call the church office to learn more.

VERSE FOR THE WEEK

"I am sure of this,
that He who began a
good work in you
will carry it on
to completion
until the day of
Christ Jesus."

— PHILIPPIANS 1:6

Prayer Board

Bob Kanary
Karen Hall (Friend of Sandy Kelley)
Jack (Dad of Aimee Jenks)
Bobbie Gaston
Fisher Marchant
Kathi Fisher
Heidi (Friend of Esther Underwood)
Sherry White
Mary Jane Svejovsky
Tamara Spear Kerr (friend of Dot Lyon's daughter, Lori)
Lucas (12 yr old nephew of Carolyn Grady's supervisor)
Laurie Buckholtz
Benni (DIL of Cheryl Davis)
Helen Sullivan
John Evans
Danny Payne

Gordon Denton
BIL of Joey Pedigo)
Nichole Norberto
Judy Knight
Carol Hall
Brandon Kilpatrick (friend of Steve Ross)
Brittany (Friend of Robin Bratcher)
Coy Sue Tyler (best friend of Loretta Wright)
Norma and Dan Boland
Tony Pellegrini
Evelyn Moore
Bill Underwood
Billy Joe Watson (friend of Wayne Barnes)
Sandy Rutherford
Barbara Hill
Judy McMinn
Tiffany Montesano