

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

### A New Year, New Times

There is familiar comfort as well as unknown challenges as we make another lap around the sun. As we begin lap 2018 AD we know that, even though we experience Him in new ways, God is the same anytime and in all circumstances.

Here are a couple of thanks and ways to help:

1. Thank you for your generous gifts shared with staff during the Christmas season. Your generosity is encouraging and appreciated.
2. Thank you for your special additional gifts toward drilling a water well in Kenya. You have given over \$14,000!
3. We finished 2017 with a rather sudden shortfall in gifts to budget. This resulted in total 2017 expenditures exceeding total gifts by about \$18,000. If your giving fell behind in 2017, now would be a good time to catch up.
4. Preliminary estimates project total income for 2018 \$10,000 less than 2017. If you have not yet turned in a 2018 giving estimate, please do so soon. Your participation will help build an accurate and dependable budget. The "Make a Difference" brochures and estimate forms are available through the office and in the foyer. Contact Pat at the church, 405-789-9033, and we will send you information.

*St Mark's ARISE!* continues to seek God's ministry opportunities in our community and these times. Please pray for our leaders who are actively and prayerfully involved in this process. You are welcome to join in the fun. The next gathering will be January 21 at 5:30. Barnett Hall. Dinner is included.

Step faithfully and hopefully into God's future.

Your brother in Christ,

Pastor Keith

*He (Christ) is before all things, and in him all things hold together. Colossians 1:17 (NIV)*



We will be doing a men's breakfast and looking at the a series called Wild Life with John Eldredge starting Saturday, January 13. We have plans to meet January 13, 27, February 10 & 24. We will have breakfast at 8, and should be finished around 9:15. There is no cost for the study, but donations taken to cover breakfast costs. Contact Brad Cromwell for more information.



*"So prepare your minds for action and exercise self-control. Put all your hope in the gracious salvation that will come to you when Jesus Christ is revealed to the world." 1 Peter 1:13*



Second Winders will meet (weather permitting) on Thursday, January 11th for a covered dish meal at noon.

After lunch we will play bingo. No charge this month. There is no trip planned for January.



## Dinner On Wednesday Night

Every Wednesday's from 5:30-6:15  
Great place to get fed and fellowship before programming. Everyone welcome.

Cost is only \$2. a person.

### Tonight!

## Spaghetti

## &

## Meatballs



let the church

# Arise

### Hello Arisers!

Thanks for helping discern the **present** ministry opportunities and begin to chart a path for St. Mark's **future**.

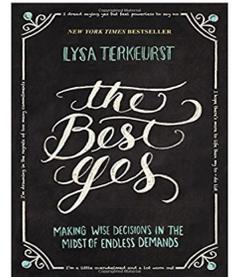
Our next meeting is scheduled for **January 21, 5:30**. The topic is *The Gap*, a discussion of the generations. I look forward to what Mike will be sharing with us.

Simple Supper on the 21st will be provided by J & G Sears, the Risings, the Sipes, and the Teagues. Thanks!

If you are not already involved in ARISE and would like to be a part of shaping the future of St. Mark's please contact Keith or the church office and we will bring you up to date on what all is involved.

*encourage  
each other  
& build each  
other up*  
1 THESS 5:11

## St. Mark's Women's Bible Study



The Women's Bible study group will not meet in December. The next meeting for the Women's Bible Study will be on Friday, January 19th. It will be a fun outing to a restaurant. We will continue on the study "The Best Yes" by Lysa Terkeurst on February 2nd. You are encouraged to join this group of women seeking to grow in Christ and in fellowship with one another. For more information contact Kayla Gannon.

**St. Mark's Leadership**  
**January 1, 2018 - December 31, 2020**  
Church Council

<b>Chair</b>	Monte Tull
<b>Lay Leader</b>	Chris Teague
<b>Lay Member of Annual Conference</b>	Sally Kilby
<b>SPRC Chair</b>	Steve Couch
<b>Hospitality &amp; Outreach SHIFT team leader</b>	Dorothy Lynch
<b>Mission &amp; Service SHIFT team leader</b>	TBD
<b>Discipleship &amp; Formation SHIFT team leader</b>	Joey Pedigo

<b>Committees</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>
<b>Trustees</b>	Miller Gerardy	Dot Lyon	Ruby Wilkey
<b>Finance</b>	Terry Pope	Gerald Miller	Bernadette Bishop

**Pastor:** Keith Cressman

**Additional areas of service not on Church Council**

**Committee on Lay Leadership**

Chair: Keith Cressman

2018	2019	2020
Gwen Sears	Emily Hollon	Rod Sipes
Stacey Miller	Darlene Hickman	Kayla Gannon
Ben Longoria	Carla Brueggen	Beverly Ray

**Staff Parish Relations Committee**

Chair: Jim McMinn

2018	2019	2020
Kevin Moore	Randy Reed	Becky Chessmore
Kathy Hamilton	Steve Couch	Susan Teague
Jim McMinn	Matt Risinger	Lorna Garner



Kings & Queens kicks off 2018 with it's first respite care this Friday, January 12th. Pray for God to

continue to work through this ministry. As the program continues to grow so does the need for volunteers. Contact Amanda Peters if you would like to join the team. Also, if you know a family that has children with special needs there is a great support Bible study for them that meets monthly. The next meeting will be on Wednesday, January 24th. Amanda also has more information on this ministry if you would like to contact her.

## Prayers for Ministry

We hope you take some time to pray for these special opportunities for growth and discipleship.

### Children's Pastors Conference

We have a team of Children Ministry leaders from our church attending this nationwide event for children's workers to gain skill, and be rejuvenated. January 16-19 in Florida.



### Student Ministry Retreat

'Anchor' is the theme for the Student Ministry retreat being held at Canyon Camp with 2 other churches January 19-21. Pray for the students and their leaders as they seek to grow in



HEB 6:19

their faith.

*pray*

## Introducing

# GIVE+

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Easy as 1, 2, 3, 4

- 1) Download the app
- 2) Find St Marks United Methodist Bethany
- 3) Create an account
- 4) Donate





# CHILDREN'S MINISTRY UPDATE

**MISSION:** St. Mark's Children's Ministry exists to partner with parents to equip, train, and release children to be passionate disciples filled with the heart of Jesus to minister today!

"Let the little children come to Me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these." ~Matthew 19:14



## SUNDAY MORNING:

Age Nursery - Kindergarten  
Time 9:30 am - 12:00 pm

Age Kindergarten - 4th grade  
Time: 9:30 am - 12:00 pm

Beginning January 7, elementary children will be studying EPIPHANY - the unveiling of the incarnate Jesus Christ. We will be exploring different events from the life of Jesus, along with his promise to return again as clues to what our One True God is like and what he has in mind for his people - us.

January 7: Finding/Seeking/Discovering Jesus

January 14: Named/Adopted/Identified through baptism

January 21: Jesus unveiled in miracles

January 28: Jesus unveiled in healings

February 4: Jesus' return

Children ages Kindergarten through 4th grade are invited to attend Sunday school from 9:30-Noon. At 9:30, the main lesson is presented, followed by small group time to apply the lesson to their personal lives. At 11:00, children are taken to the sanctuary to experience integrated worship with the rest of the congregation. After the children's moment is presented, Pastor Keith will then dismiss those children who wish to return to more children's Sunday school with Ms. Alicia, or they are welcome to stay with their parents in service for the remainder of the worship hour.

We value the presence of children in worship with the rest of the congregation, and encourage parents to model worship through singing, tithing, liturgy recitation, prayer, communion, and all parts of Sunday worship. The children will be learning the same topics that Pastor Keith preaches on, so families can go home discussing what they have all learned and will strive to live out in their lives. Blessings to our children and their families!

### CHILDREN'S MINISTRY DIRECTOR:

Alicia Schneider  
Phone: 789-9033  
Email: [alicia@stmarksbethany.com](mailto:alicia@stmarksbethany.com)

### EARLY CHILDHOOD MINISTRY DIRECTOR:

Sharon Hunt  
Phone: 789-9033  
Email: [sharon@stmarksbethany.com](mailto:sharon@stmarksbethany.com)

## TeamKID

Tonight at TeamKID, we will study how God wants us to be **RESPONSIBLE** in our actions and choices. We will learn that God helps us to be responsible, especially when we know and do what God and others expect us to do. Memory verse is Psalm 139:23 "Search me, God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts." Looking forward to seeing the children back at 6:30 tonight!

~Ms Alicia



# STUDENT MINISTRY

We are up and running at St. Marks, I want to help make sure I get some important information to you so you are prepared and ready for as the semester gets rolling.

Wednesday, January 10th-This week we return to small groups and worship. We are starting a series on spiritual disciplines as we head into Lent. I hope this will be challenging and call our students to action as we work through this great material. Please remember we serve dinner for \$2 a person from 5:30-6:15pm, if you are interested please let me know to save you a spot. We will see you Wednesday 6:30-8pm.

Winter Retreat-Registrations for Winter Retreat are due this Sunday. Please fill free to turn them in early. You can drop them by the church anytime from 9-4pm this week and bring them to Small Groups Wednesday night. If you need more information please check out our website [www.stmarkssm.com](http://www.stmarkssm.com).

Mission Mexico- Our first required team meeting will be Sunday, January 28th at New Covenant UMC. We will gather after church and caravan in the church vans. Lunch will be provided. If you are planning on attending please plan to join us for this meeting. This is for both youth and sponsors, if you are interested in coming as a sponsor and need to know more please feel free to contact me.

If you have any questions or ways I can help serve you better, please feel free to share with me. Thank you!

John Hollon  
Youth Pastor



## Facts and Figures

2018 Budget ..... TBD  
 Rec'd toward Operating 12/31/2017 ..... 17,557  
 Expenditures 12/31/2017 .....287  
 Sunday January 7, 2018  
 Worship ..... 239  
 Sunday School .....175



Richard Bassett	Kathy Hamilton	Dylan Reimers
Alice Bentin	Everly Hance	Ezra Riverol
Nick Brown	Tristan Hickman	Wesson Rohlman
Jerry Calvert	Harrison Hughes	Ethan Sandburg
Bravery Clemenceau	Cody Hunt	Samuel Schneider
Steve Couch	Joy Imel	Gwen Sears
Keith Cressman	Shelley Meisenburg	Iva Smith
Letha Davis	Austin Miller	Dale Stafford
Vonnie Deal	Merrick Mullin	Maxon Steel
Jennifer Fallon	Houston Norvell	Ella Stiffler
Joely Ferguson	Will Parker	Chris Teague
Nevaeh Gannon	Valerie Pautsch	Beverley Tully
Kayla Gannon	Cheryl Pavelko	Chris Ulmer
Barbara Gardner	Mahala Pershica	Emma Lee Votaw
Lorna Garner	Sophia Preston	Rita Wurzer
Dale German	Kim Preston	

## Prayer Box

Don & Fran Nobles	Kason Knutson & family
Bob Rutherford family	Don Wonderly
Vic Gammill & family	Cathy Green family
Kieth Ballard	Tiffany Montesano
Betty Miller	Jennafer Marchant
Wyatt Pedigo family	Beverly Clark
Jim Brewer	Genie & Brandon Funk
Becky Horrigan	Robin Frey
Bill Joe Watson	