



# ST. MARK'S BETHANY NEWSLETTER

## JOIN US FOR WORSHIP!

### Jesus Wants Me -- To Take Up His Mission

This week, Pastor Randy concludes our "Jesus Wants ..." sermon series with the message titled "Jesus Wants Me to Take Up His Mission," based on Matthew 28:16-20. As we look together at Jesus' Great Commission, we'll be reminded that His call to go, teach, and share His love is meant for every one of us. Join us as we finish this meaningful series and prepare our hearts for the beginning of Advent next week. We look forward to worshipping with you this Sunday!

### 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!

The St. Mark's Bethany Women would like to extend a heartfelt thank-you to everyone who supported Sunday's Holiday Bazaar and this year's Craft Show. Because of your generosity and participation, the ladies have raised more than \$4,800, all of which will go directly toward their missions. A few of the missions these funds support are the ROC, Circle of Care, Willow, The Salvation Army, our Funeral Dinners ministry, STRIVE, Kings & Queens, and KidMin. Your kindness makes a real difference, and we are so grateful for the way our church family continues to give, encourage, and serve alongside us.



Tonight's Prayer Walk will be our final one for the year. Thank you to everyone who has joined us--let's finish the year in prayer together!

# Wrapped in Love November Update



Our amazing Wrapped in Love ladies have been busy! This month they created 19 cozy blankets and 6 adorable baby caps--all stitched with care, prayer, and a whole lot of love. Their handiwork will bless children and families at Willow in ways we may never fully see, but we know every stitch matters.

The group will NOT meet in December as everyone moves into the bustle of the holiday season, but they'll be back in January with fresh yarn, warm hearts, and new projects. Thank you ladies, for wrapping our world in love--one blanket at a time!

**DON'T MISS THE  
BOY SCOUT  
SPAGHETTI  
DINNER THIS  
SATURDAY**



**BOY SCOUT  
TROOP 553  
SPAGHETTI DINNER**

**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 22ND  
BARNETT HALL 5:00 to 7:30 pm**

**ADULTS \$10 | CHILDREN UNDER 12 \$7 TAKE OUT AVAILABLE**

**You're invited: Darrell Cate's Retirement Party**  
**Tuesday, December 2**  
**2:00 - 4:00 PM**



# HOLIDAY SWEATER

*Retirement Party*

H O N O R I N G  
**DARRELL CATES**

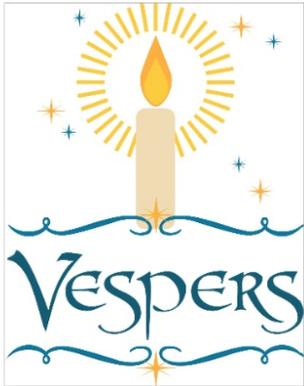
*Come and Go*

2:00 - 4:00 PM  
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 2  
4201 N. CLASSEN BOULEVARD  
OKLAHOMA CITY, OK 73118

*Light snacks and drinks provided.  
Holiday sweater optional (but highly encouraged).*

**Click [HERE](#)  
to RSVP**

# Advent Vespers Service November 30



As we remember the long-awaited Messiah throughout the season of Advent, we also look forward with hope to our King's glorious second coming--when all things will be made right and new. In the Vesper hour, the quiet evening time of prayer, we pause to reflect on the day that has passed and entrust tomorrow to God's care, resting in His promise and peace.

Join us for a gentle, reflective service of prayer and Psalm singing as we anticipate the coming King and open our hearts to the peace given to all whose hope is in the Lord.

We will gather for a reception in Barnett Hall at 6:30 pm, followed by the Vespers service in the sanctuary at 7:00 pm. All are welcome to this meaningful beginning to the Advent season.

## Deck the Halls of St. Mark's!

It's almost time to turn St. Mark's into a beautiful, sparkling welcome for the Advent and Christmas season! Join us on Monday, November 24th at 9:00 am in the Narthex as Cheryl Davis gives us a quick walkthrough of the decorating plan before we begin. After that, we'll spread out to fluff trees, hang garlands, straighten bows, and add all the festive touches that make our church shine. Everyone is welcome and many hands make light (and merry!) work.

If you created a Chrismon ornament this year, please bring it to the church on Sunday, November 23rd or the morning of the 24th so we can add it to our Chrismon wreath. What a joy it will be to see everyone's handiwork come together in one beautiful display!

Come help us kick off the season with warmth, joy and the sparkle of Christmas at St. Mark's!



## 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.

# Kings and Queens Christmas Giving

This Christmas season, Kings & Queens is collecting donations to help provide gifts for the amazing kids we serve. Your generosity allows us to make the holidays extra special -- sharing the joy of Jesus' love in a tangible way and reminding these children that they are deeply loved and valued.

Donations can be made in several ways: through Church Center (designated to Kings & Queens), by dropping them off at the church office, or by contacting Kayla Gannon directly. Every contribution, big or small, helps us bring smiles and hope this Christmas!



## The Joy Your Giving Makes Possible

Your generosity makes moments like this possible -- thank you for sharing the joy of Jesus' love this Christmas.



## 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.**

## Learn Why We Worship the Way We Do!



Join us **THIS SATURDAY** from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm for a special **family event** where we'll explore the meaning and beauty behind our worship traditions. Enjoy

teaching, crafts, food, and, of course, worship—all designed for families to experience together.

## Second Winder's to Meet December 11th

Looking forward to December 11th for the Second Winder's gathering. We will gather in the sanctuary starting at 11 o'clock to watch and enjoy the CDO Christmas program.

Our meal together starts at 12 o'clock. If you would like to bring homemade Christmas cookies to serve as our desserts, please feel free to do so.

Following the meal, we will be playing Jesus Bingo.



## for Growing Families

We're celebrating two special moms in our St. Mark's family who are welcoming another baby to their family! Tori Kessler, who is due on December 25th, and Anna Evans, due in January.

To help support them, we're collecting diapers of any size. You can bring your diapers to the church office or give them to Sharon Hunt. Let's bless these families with love and practical help as they prepare for their little ones' arrival!

As we focus this collection on helping moms who already have little ones at home, we also want everyone to know that we are absolutely continuing to honor and support our new moms as well. St. Mark's celebrates each new baby with a church-wide baby shower, ensuring our newest families receive the love, gifts and encouragement they need. Your donations for the Diaper Drive simply allow us to extend that same care to mothers who are already juggling the busy, beautiful work of raising young children.



## Turkey Olympics!



Get ready for some feather-flapping fun! St. Mark's Student Ministry is hosting the Turkey Olympics on Wednesday, November 19, at 6:00 pm in the Family Life Center.

Students will compete in hilarious Thanksgiving-themed challenges, celebrate teamwork, and enjoy a night full of laughter and friendly competition. It's the perfect way to kick off the holiday season -- and yes, there will be prizes!

So grab a friend, bring you best game face, and come ready to gobble up the gold!!

# STACKING OUR PRAISE FOR JESUS!!!

Kids, join us for a Pancake Breakfast in Barnett Hall as we stack our praise and thanks to Jesus! We will be wrapping up our Psalm 100 study, all about giving praise to God--and what better way to celebrate than with pancakes, fun, and thankfulness? We'll meet during the first church service (around 9:30 am) on November 23 (THIS SUNDAY). Parents are welcome to share in the joy!



## Giving Thanks for All Things



It's easy to list the blessings in life: good health, family, a satisfying career, a comfortable home. We might even be thankful for things others take for granted such as freedom and clean drinking water, reliable transportation and food enough to eat. Then there are the little things, such as gardens, sunrises, pets and coffee.

But what about life's storms or unanswered prayers? Should we be thankful for these? Loss and hardship remind us of our dependence on God. He uses trials to draw us closer to him, to show us that He is our rock and refuge. In misfortune and grief, we discover God's comfort and strength. Should we not, then, be thankful for the storms, too?

## 2026 Family Prayer Calendar

Looking for a meaningful way to grow in faith together as a family? The 2026 Family Prayer Calendar – The Lord's Prayer Edition is a great tool to help families pray, learn, and talk about faith all year long. Each month focuses on a part of the Lord's Prayer, offering simple prompts and activities to help children (and adults!) connect daily life with God's Word.



Each calendar includes 365 daily prayer prompts to guide meaningful conversations with God, 365 Bible reading prompts to anchor your family in His Word, and a colorful pull-out poster to brighten your space with Scripture.

Calendars are \$20 each and can be ordered through Church Center. Be sure to sign up soon so your family can begin the new year in prayer together! Deadline to order and pay is **November 24th**.

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

**Unashamed  
of the Gospel**

St. Mark's Men's Bible Study

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.

# Cards of Thanks for Our Heroes



Our KidMin children are learning the importance of gratitude and service by creating handmade cards for the men and women serving in our military. These cards will be sent overseas through The Hugs Project, reminding our troops that they are loved, appreciated, and prayed for back home.

Anyone is welcome to join in! You can use one of the cards KidMin has prepared, or make your own. If you're not sure what to say, check out the "What to Write About" article on the KidMin grid for ideas and inspiration.

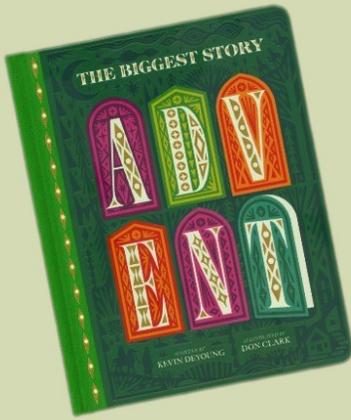
Please turn in all letters and cards by **December 15** so they can be included in this special delivery of encouragement and love.

## SCRIPTURE TOOLS FOR FAMILIES

Be sure to stop by the **KidMin grid** grid and pick up **two special resources** to help your family stay rooted in God's Word this season! Grab a set of **Scripture Prayer Prompt Cards** to guide your prayers each day, and a **"Give Thanks" Scripture Scratch-Off** for your child to uncover a daily verse and reminder of gratitude.

These fun tools make it easy to open the Bible together and **grow in faith as a family.**





# A New Advent Story for Our Kids!

This year we're using a special Advent book for our kids called **The Biggest Story: Advent** --and it's not your usual Christmas story! Instead of starting with shepherds, angels, and wise men, this book takes us on an adventure *before* the manger. It shares the "story before the story"--the promises God made all through the Old Testament about the Savior who would one day come.

Each day of Advent, kids will hear a short, cozy, bedtime-style chapter that feels like a storybook...but every page points to God's big rescue plan and His amazing love for us. Some of the promises in the book are ones they might already know, and some might be brand-new--but all of them help us see how God was preparing the world for Jesus long before that first Christmas night.

Our hope is that this little Advent journey will help kids (and parents and grandparents!) see just how big and wonderful God's story really is.

Let's get ready for Advent together as we discover **THE BIGGEST STORY** of all!

## 25 Day Advent family Devotions & SCAVENGER HUNT

This year, KidMin is inviting families with children of all ages to experience Advent in a fun and meaningful new way! Our 25-Day Advent Family Devotions take your family on a daily journey toward Christmas, helping kids discover the story of Jesus' birth through simple readings, conversations, and hand-on activities.

To make the journey even more exciting, each devotion is paired with a Scavenger Hunt Card. Families will search their homes to find each day's card, and every card includes part of a secret message. Once all 25 cards are found and the message is decoded, your family will uncover a special reminder of the true meaning of Christmas.

Each kit includes:

- A printed Family Devotions Booklet
- A set of 25 Scavenger Hunt Cards
- A Deck Box to keep cards together,

It's simple, fun, and designed for all ages. Pick up your family's kit and get ready to begin your Advent adventure on December 1st!

*From God's promises throughout the Old Testament to the miracle in Bethlehem, these Advent activities help our children see how the whole story fits together. Together, they paint a beautiful picture of God's plan and why Christmas truly matters.*

*Choose 1 or both for your family!*



# 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!

# Upcoming Events

## TONIGHT - Wednesday Night Programs

5:30 Meal - Hamburgers  
 5:15 Prayer  
 6:00 Prayer Walk  
 6:15 KidMin  
 6:15 Youth Ministry  
 6:30 Choir Rehearsal

November 20 - Young Adult Ministry

November 22 - STRIVE Work Day

November 22 - ENCOUNTER

November 22 - Boy Scout Spaghetti Dinner

November 23 - KidMin PRAISE Breakfast

November 24 - Deck the Halls of St. Mark's 

November 25 - Men's Bible Study

November 27 - THANKSGIVING DAY

November 30 - Vespers Reception and Service

December 2 - Men's Bible Study

December 6 - Faithbuilders Christmas Party

December 7 - R.O.C.K. Christmas Party

February 22 - Chili Cook-Off

## FACTS & Figures

2025 Annual Budget	632,679
Rec'd toward Operating 11/15/2025 .....	31,170
Year to Date 2025	
Rec'd toward offering (thru 11/15/25) .....	540,057
Expenses (11/15/25) .....	566,837

### ATTENDANCE

Sunday, November 16	Total	366
Traditional Worship .....		192
Modern Worship .....		67
Online Worship .....		107

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



## Prayer Board

Tim Dearing (friend of Penny Fryman)	Judy Ross
Jerry & Bonnie Fisher (brother and SIL to Sandy Kelley & Mike Fisher)	Jim Donnan (father of co-worker of Deb Wade)
Brad Hart (husband of Tammy (Best) Hart)	Kason (grandson of Cheryl Pavelko)
Kevin (son of Becky & Steve Chessmore)	Sandy Rutherford
Isaac Roman	Kathi Wagner (Dot Lyon's daughter, Lory's best friend)
Cindy Wilkerson	Bill Underwood
Beth (Bidne) Cook	Billy Joe Watson (friend of Wayne Barnes)
Anthony Thomas (friend of Barbara Johnson)	Barbara Hill
Norma and Dan Boland	Lief Hill (son of a friend of Wayne Barnes)
Jennifer and infant son, Jacob (friend of Christy Kiespert)	Ginger Fenton (daughter of Jeff & Dianna Davidson)
Vickie Wines (grandmother of Chealsie Zink)	Dianna Davidson
Tony Pellegrini	Judy McMinn
	Tiffany Montesano