



You are invited to change the world. You are invited to be part of St Mark's creative, research, development and marketing team. We are not creating a new product. We are, however, setting out to discover new and best ways to apply the Gospel in our complex and ever more diverse communities.

We are beginning a church-wide effort to live out the Greatest Commandment:

...“Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.” Mt. 22:37-40 (NIV)

For the next fourteen months, we are going to focus our efforts on knowing Jesus personally, loving and knowing our neighbors, and experiencing God's good work in and through St. Mark's.

If you are interested in being a part of this journey join us for a kickoff dinner on September 17th. You can sign up on the church counter. We need to know by September 10th that you will be coming to the kickoff dinner and are interested in learning more and becoming a part of this kingdom changing event.

Sermon Series on the “Sermon on the Mount”



Our Sermon on the Mount series continues this Sunday. We are looking at some of Jesus' greatest teachings.. We will get to know Jesus better and walk through practical life guidance as we grow as disciples of Jesus Christ.

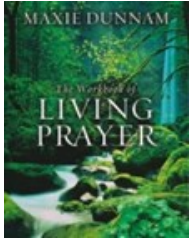
Learning to Follow Jesus

Bible Studies Fall 2017

THE WORKBOOK OF LIVING PRAYER – Maxie Dunnam

Starting Wednesday, September 13th, 6:30 pm in room 5.

It will run for 6 weeks.



David Roman will be leading this group as they work through the workbook which teaches us to pray in a simple, practical way. This personal adventure in prayer will help strengthen your prayer life.

Weekly reading in text of about 20 pages, with daily guides, hour long weekly session.

Books available from amazon.com; e-book, paperback; costs vary.

CBD.com workbook price \$6 + shipping. Amazon.com price \$6.58

We ask that each person acquire their own book.

NOT A FAN – Kyle Idleman

Starting Wednesday, September 13th, 6:30 pm in room 18.

It will run for 6 weeks



Not a Fan calls you to consider the demands and rewards of being a true disciple. With frankness sprinkled with humor, Idleman invites you to live the way Jesus lived, love the way he loved, pray the way he prayed, and never give up living for the One who gave his all for you. Brad Cromwell will be leading this group using both video and discussion. Ordering book is optional but encourage for a great read.

Fifteen chapters. CBD.com price \$7.50 + shipping. Amazon.com price \$10.84

We ask that each person acquire their own book.

Be watching for a second group on another night of the week.

FINANCIAL PEACE – Dave Ramsey

Starting Wednesday, September 20th, 6:30 pm in room 17



Pay off your debt: It's no fun living paycheck to paycheck. Enjoy your money without owing it to some else.

Save for the future: Get proactive! Build an emergency fund and invest with confidence.

Make a great team: Create a helpful budget that works for you AND your spouse. Learn to plan, save and grow together.

Adrienne Cressman will be leading this group.

9 weeks, \$109.00 or about \$12.00/wk.

To enroll online and order materials directly: <https://fpu.com/1049542>

Hurricane Harvey Disaster Relief

Many opportunities are becoming available to reach out and help those suffering in the wake of hurricane Harvey.

UMCOR

The United Methodist Committee on Relief is mobilizing and deploying to the flood area. The emergency kits we assembled in the past are now being distributed to people in shelters. UMCOR will continue on the ground, working in concert with other major relief organizations and the local United Methodist Churches. We will also be assembling 'flood buckets' to provide to families and work teams as they move back into their neighborhoods and homes. Here is a link to instructions for assembly: <http://www.umcor.org/.../Relief-S.../Relief-Supply-Kits/Cleaning>.



If you prefer to make a financial donation, this web page has directions for that as well. We will have a display in the narthex with supply lists, a box for items you bring in, and a sign up sheet for those who will help with assembly.

Direct help to a local church



Richard and Sally White spend most winter months in the Padre Island area. While there, they attend Island in the Son UMC. Island in the Son UMC sustained substantial hurricane damage when the roof was peeled back on 2 sides. The church is full of debris and insulation. The portable classroom building next to the church is totally gone. The structure and beams are sound and they have a concrete floor, so they are hopeful for full recovery. The central altar area and prayer garden were the only areas that were completely untouched! Church members feel this is a testament to God's care for them even in these challenging times. Although they have wind insurance, they anticipate that much of their damage will not be covered. Pastor John Smith says they need and welcome any help. If you would like to assist with hurricane recovery for this church, checks should be made payable to Island in the Son UMC and noted for disaster recovery. You can get more information about the congregation, including the church address, from this website: www.islandintheson.org. If you have questions about the church, call Sally White at 535-5190. Please do not make a contribution for Island in the Son to St. Mark's.

Other ways to support relief efforts

Also remember you can make financial gifts to the Salvation Army (we know its good work through Alton and Barbara Gardner) and World Vision (with whom we have partnered in the past to drill water wells in Africa).

Most important

Please pray for all aspects of this disaster and recovery.



2nd Sat of Service

Our next service day is September 9th. We will be doing disaster assistance in Moore. If you would like to be a part join us at 8am that morning at the church. We will return to church at around 2 pm. Wear work clothes, good shoes and bring your gloves. For more information contact Randy Reed.



St. Mark's UMW ANNUAL Garage Sale

September 8th: 8am - 4pm



The annual UMW Garage Sale for missions will be held on Friday, September 15th from 8 am to 4 pm. Setup will begin following youth on Wednesday, September 13th. Help is needed for setup pricing, and sorting on Thursday. If you are willing to help you can sign up in the church office or contact Joey Pedigo.

Bishop Nunn to visit St. Marks



On Sunday, October 1st, Oklahoma Conference's new bishop will be visiting St. Mark's for the first time. Take advantage of this opportunity to hear Bishop Nunn and welcome him to St. Mark's.

Bishop Nunn will be speaking in both services.

Kings and Queens

Kings and Queens kicks off it's fall schedule with it's first respite care of the school year, September 8th. Please be in prayer for this important ministry. If you are interested in being a part of the ministry team contact Amanda Peters at amanda@stmarksbethany.com.



Second Winders

If you are retired or 55+, you are invited to join others for fellowship and food on the second Thursday of the month. On September 14th, Second Winders will meet for a noon meal of baked potatoes, salads and dessert prepared at the church. Cost: \$5. Come early for coffee and conversation. Following the meal Kenneth and Verna Newby will present a program of gospel songs. Contact Joy Imel 789-3184 for more information.



STUDENT MINISTRY

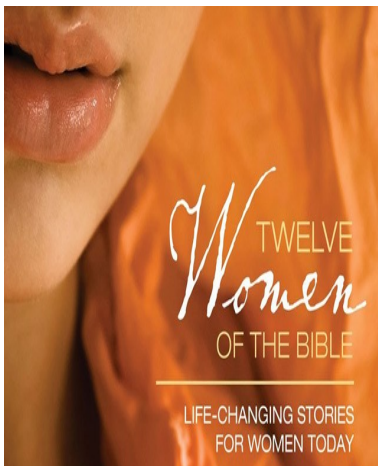
I hope you had a great holiday weekend and got to rest from your labor, even if only for a little while. We are full swing here at St. Marks and after last week I am really excited about our direction and focus for this year! Now to our happenings this week.

Wednesday, September 6th- We will have our youth worship and small groups. We meet from 6:30-8pm and this is a great opportunity for your students to invite a friend to be a part of, so please encourage your students to invite a buddy to join them for small groups and worship. Can't wait to see everyone there!

STRIVE- We had a soft kickoff for our annual youth fundraiser and will be going full speed this coming Sunday. If you were gone over the weekend your student can grab a packet on Wednesday or Sunday morning. It is really crucial you help in encouraging your students to ask those inside and outside to church to support our ministry. Also please keep the workday of Sept. 30th free on their calendars and yours if you would like to help us serve our community.

Please let me know anyway I can pray for our support you and your families. Thanks!

In His Grip,
John Hollon
Youth Pastor



St. Mark's Women's Bible Study

After a summer break the Women's Bible Study is ready to kick back off. The group will meet on September 15th from 7 - 9 pm (location TBD). Fellowship, a covered dish and study will be included. The study will include a video teaching and then study and discussion together. You are encouraged to join this group of women seeking to grow in Christ and in fellowship with one another. For more information contact Alicia Schneider.



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

We are continuing in a series about the Sermon on the Mount. Each week will focus on a section of Jesus teaching in the sermon on the mount for kids to learn the basic beliefs of the Christian faith. Kids will be given tools to grow their faith with and get a better understanding of Christianity. Hope you can all make it.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY DIRECTOR:
Alicia Schneider
Phone: 789-9033
Email: alicia@stmarksbethany.com

EARLY CHILDHOOD MINISTRY DIRECTOR:
Sharon Hunt
Phone: 789-9033
Email: sharon@stmarksbethany.com

Wednesday evening: 6:30-8:00, ages 4-10

TeamKID: Character Challenge continues tonight, September 6th, 6:30-8:00! For children ages 4-10. We will study the story of righteous Noah in order to learn about that Godly character trait. Please have your child bring their Bible, and work on memorizing this verse: Romans 10:10 "For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved." Looking forward to see your child, neighbor, grandchild, relative, friend... there tonight!
~Miss Alicia

Character Challenge Dates and Topics:

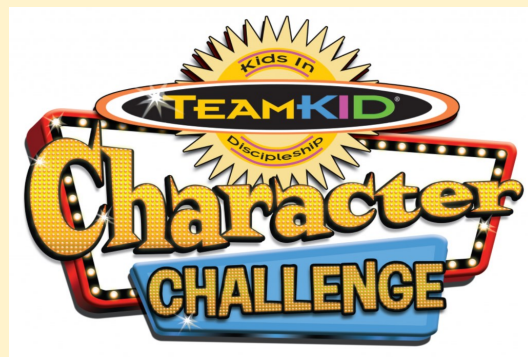
Sept. 6 - Be Honest: Zacchaeus Is Honest

Sept. 13 - Be Caring: Elijah and the Widow of Zarephath

Sept 20 - Be Accountable: Nehemiah Is Accountable to God

Sept 27 - Be Prayerful: The Model Prayer

Oct 4 - Be Knowledgeable: Jesus uses knowledge of the Scripture against Satan.



Council Grove Elementary Impact

Thanks for helping the students, staff and faculty at Council Grove Elementary get off to a good start this school year. Here is what the principle, Shelly Braisher writes:

"Thank you for taking our school to heart! We appreciate so very much the dedicated volunteers and man hours you provide us each year through Sally and Richard's encouragement.

The teachers have been hovering around the boxes of school supplies that you so generously organized and delivered to us. These supplies will go a long way in helping prepare our classrooms to be effective and efficient. Students have what they need right at hand – and that is a wonderful gift!...Thank you

for standing in the gap for our students who don't have access to basic supplies. We are able to share with them and it's because of your generosity!"



This is what we provided:

Eight large boxes of supplies for teachers August 13. The teachers were thrilled to get these classroom supplies! Thanks to all who contributed.

Eight volunteers from St Marks worked at the school August 14 and 15 to help Kindergarten and Pre-K teachers get ready for school to start.

Sixteen St Mark's volunteers have committed to help as classroom assistants or in other capacities at Council Grove this year. Special thanks to 2017-18 classroom assistants Julia Bevers, Norma Bolland, Laurie Bucholtz, Becky Chessmore, Christie Couch, Lorna Garner, Darlene Hickman, Lily Hummel, Dorthy Lynch, Dot Lyon, Ingrid Morrison, Sharon Payne, Beverley Tully, and Sherry White.

Results are being seen: The school just learned that students scored 55% on state reading tests last spring, a big increase from 36% the previous year. The school principal says the volunteers the last 2 years have really made a big difference for the children's reading and behavior! We hope to see these reading scores continue to rise as our volunteers help in low reading classrooms this year.

If you would like to be part of this important mission outreach to needy children in our area, call Sally

Important Upcoming Events

September 9	2nd Saturday of Service
September 10	STRIVE Kickoff
September 15	UMW Garage Sale
September 17	ARISE Kickoff Dinner
October 1	Bishop Nunn Speaks at St. Marks
October 7	Boy Scout Spaghetti Dinner
October 25	Fall Fun Night
November 11	Charge Conference
November 14-21	New Church Directory Pictures



The Monday Bible Study will be returning after a summer break on Monday, September 11th. The group meets each week at 2:00 pm in room 5 for a study from the Upper Room. Joey Pedigo leads this group and anyone is more than welcome to join in the study, discussion and fellowship.

September



Facts and Figures

2017 Budget 595,337

Rec'd toward Operating 9/3/201712,980

Year to Date

Rec'd toward Operating 9/3/2017 383,465

Expenditures 9/3/2017389,042

Sunday September 3, 2017

Worship 227

Stephanie	Agyemang	Wren	Hance	Scott	Nobles
Pam	Barnes	Brandon	Heath	Joey	Pedigo
Becky	Bates	Maggie	Hill	Doris	Peeler
Jim	Brewer	George	Kloss	Tony	Pellegrini
Carolyn	Bright	Madison	Knowles	Vicki	Pellegrini
Ridley Seay	Brock	Ben	Longoria	Mike	Penny
Ma'Kiya	Collins	Christel	Longoria	Sue	Price
Max	Collins	Madeleine	Lopez	Tatianna	Prince-Sadler
Gary	Davis	Patsy	McDowell	Matt	Risinger
Ella	Epely	Brandy	Miller	Autumn	Swedlow
Kelsey	Evans	Ingrid	Morrison	Richard	White
Barry	Foster	Markus	Mullin	Patricia	Wonderly
Korey	Gannon				

Prayer Box

Don & Fran Nobles	Ruth Martyn
Kason Knutson & family	Bob Rutherford
Don Wonderly	Hailey Fisher
Sylvia Mosher family	Kieth Ballard
Darlene Hickman & family of Oleta Muret	
Danny Payne & family of Joy Cross	