

St. Mark's

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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www.stmarksbethany.com

March 29, 2017

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

and earth. I BELIEVE in Jesus Christ, his only Son, conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, who lived, died, and rose again. I BELIEVE in the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

this We believe

This Sunday we will resume our look at the Apostles Creed, "This We Believe". This week we will examine the phrase—"the forgiveness of sins".

**COMING
SOON!**

New Worship Services on Horizon

Read details about those changes on pages 3 and 7 in this issue.



Holy Week Calendar APRIL 9-16, 2017

Palm Sunday Services

8:30 9:45 11:00

Praying the Lord's Prayer

Prayers of worship, healing and wholeness

Mon. - Wed. 6:30-7:00pm

Maundy Thursday Service

Holy Communion 6:30 - 7:30 pm

Good Friday

6:30 pm - 7:30 pm

Easter Sunday

Resurrection Services 9:25 11:00

EASTER LILIES

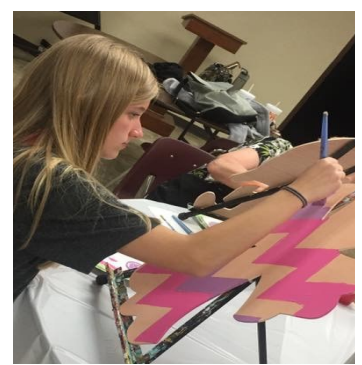
There is a sign-up sheet on the counter outside the church office for ordering Easter Lilies.



These lilies will decorate our sanctuary Easter Sunday, April 16th.

Please indicate on the sheet if you are donating the lily in honor or memory of your loved ones. Orders and payment of \$15.00 is due by Sunday, April 10th, for each lily you donate. You may take your lilies home after services on Easter Sunday.

Women's Bible Study "Paint It Pretty" Party



Community Easter Egg Hunt

11:00 am
Saturday, April 15
East of Church

Easter egg candy needed

We need to fill a lot of Easter eggs for our Easter egg hunts and we need your help. Please bring individually wrapped candies to office as soon as you can so we can begin filling eggs.

If you need more information contact the church office.

The Great Easter Invite

Be a part of the Great Easter invite. Our goal is to invite our friends, neighbors, and co-workers to celebrate Easter with us. It takes all of us for this to happen. You can pick up your basket in the Narthex beginning this Sunday, April 2nd.

Easter Sunday, April

HE IS
RISEN

CELEBRATE THE SAVIOR

9:25 am

11:00 am

Identical Combined Services

Sunday Morning Changes are coming in April!

Exciting changes are coming to Sunday Mornings at St. Mark's. These are positive adjustments that we hope will help us reach three goals: 1. Worship with enthusiasm that pleases God, 2. Grow spiritually and numerically, and 3. Increase Sunday morning disciple-making and class opportunities.

What is changing?

We are starting **two new worship services** in the place of three. The *Classic* service will begin at 9:25. The *Contemporary* service will begin at 11:00. The services will not be exactly like any of the three services we now enjoy, but there will be plenty of similarities.

We are adding an **additional Sunday school/discipleship hour**. Sunday school hours will be at 8:15, 9:25, and 11:00. It is anticipated that if you attend the new *Classic* 9:25 worship service you will attend either the 8:15 or 11:00 class time. Sunday school classes are free to decide which hour they would like to meet or to even start a new class during one of the hours while keeping a class during the other hour. College-age, youth/student, children's, early childhood and nursery ministries will flip order. Class meetings that were after worship service will now be before the new *contemporary* service.

When does all this take effect?

The change in time and style will begin on the Sunday after Easter. The date is April 23.

What does it mean for me?

You are, of course, free to attend the worship service of your choice. The following illustrations assume you will attend the new service that is most similar to the one you now attend.

(cont. page 4)

A Word From the Church Council Chair

As Chair of the Church Council I'd like to say a few words about the process, and the way the decision was made to change to two services. Church Council appointed a committee to provide three recommendations for moving to two services. Members of the committee consisted of members and non-members of the Church Council. The committee met, self-organized itself into two sub-committees, one for the traditional or classic service, and one for the contemporary or modern service. I assure you that the committee (s) prayed and sought the guidance of the Holy Spirit. At the next Church Council meeting, the committee delivered one recommendation. Church Council deliberated over the various aspects of the proposal while seeking guidance through prayer. In the end each Church Council member believed the recommendation to be the right change for St. Marks at this time, and the vote was unanimously in favor. I was inspired by the work of the committee and the Church Council and truly believe it was prayer driven and led by the Holy Spirit. I ask that each of us to give the new service format a chance, for at least three months. Church Council will listen and be open to suggestions for improvement.

PTL,
Monte Tull

UMW 2017 Special Recognition Honorees

Sally White – Sally has initiated programs regarding food security that have crossed the state in their applications. She started the 'backpack' program, which provides food for children to take home for the weekend and is found in 200+ schools across the state. Her concerns also touched Senior Citizens with a program of drop off food boxes during the week for those home alone. She has worked professionally with people in poverty [food security] and has been working with Council Grove Elementary to recruit volunteers as "listeners" to students read weekly during the school year, sharing the needs of the school for clothing, books and volunteers. She has successfully recruited SM's members and others to make this happen.



Sharon Hunt -This individual has a passion for sharing God's love with the children of St. Mark's and those with whom she comes in contact and has been instrumental in starting: family based programs/events at St. Mark's, such as KICKS, [Kids in Christ Club] a summer program, expanding Family Fun night; CDO which is a service to the community 3 days/week [9:30-2:30 p.m.] for families who want childcare at those times and this connection has resulted in some families affiliating or joining St. Mark's; wrote the initial grant for the Kings and Queens respite care for families with special needs children [it is a monthly program during the school year] and she is part of that evening with the children.



Sharon has shown her commitment to her work and life on a daily basis since becoming a part of the St. Mark's family. She and her family are members of SM's and have been active in the activities of the church.

Great Job St. Mark's on the Skyline Urban Ministry collections. As you can see below there was a large amount given. THANKS!





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 have started our new series called "We Believe". Each week will focus on a section of the Apostle's Creed 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



Wednesdays: Catching Air!

Catching Air is a term many of today's athletes use to indicate their best performance for those who leap, jump, or ride - literally to soar!

Catching Air wants kids to realize that even though their strength may eventually fade, those who trust God will re-

new, walk, run, and soar in His strength!

Each week, there will be a Bible lesson, worship time, prayer time, mission video, recreation, crafts, and snacks.

Wednesdays, at 6:30 p.m. in the children's brown room.

March 22 - Acts 2:38
April 5 - 1 Peter 4:10

March 29 - 1 Corinthians 11:24
April 12 - Colossians 4:2



STUDENT MINISTRY

I will be traveling on mission beginning this Saturday to Jordan and Israel. This is an incredible opportunity I have to make ministry contacts and support the Church worldwide as we discussed this past Sunday. I will be return on Good Friday and celebrate the Resurrection with you Please pray for me an my team as well as my family while I am gone. Your prayers are much appreciated. Now on the happenings this week.

Wednesday, March 29th- We will have youth worship in the youth room from 6:30-8pm. We will be starting or really continuing our new series on Testimony. It will be a great tool for our witness, and I hope your student can join us!

Sunday, April 2nd- We will be having a you pick em game night at the church from 6-7:30pm. That means you show up and whoever is here gets to help pick the activity for the night. So come and cast your vote.

Important Reminders

Schedule Change- St. Marks is taking a big step of faith and trusting in God's leading and direction. In doing that we are totally changing Sunday Morning. We are doing away with the old and creating 2 brand new worship services. I believe this change will allow for growth and amazing works of the Holy Spirit. This also means a change in our schedule as a youth ministry on Sunday mornings. The Modern/Contemporary service will be at 11AM. This means we will have Sunday School before worship. This new schedule will start Sunday, April 23rd. Here is a mock schedule.

9:15-Breakfast and fellowship-There will be opportunities to set up early and clean up help. We will be working on a way to RSVP so we can know to have enough food.

9:45-10- Sunday School will start officially

10:50-Sunday School will end

11-Worship begins

Camp Dates- By the end of today camp information will be posted to our website, www.stmarkssm.com, this will include dates and registration process. We will have a parent meeting on Sunday, April 23rd after worship to discuss camp and summer schedule.

Parent Meeting- April 23rd after church to discuss summer camps and summer schedule.

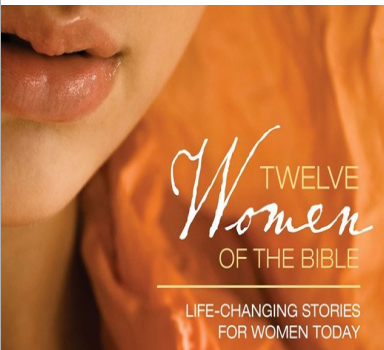
Please let me know any questions or ways I can be of help and service to your family. Blessings.

In His Grip,
John Hollon
Youth Pastor



St. Mark's Women's Bible Study

An exciting new group has started at St. Mark's. The group will meet the 1st and 3rd Friday of each month from 7 - 9 pm. They will be hosted each time at a different home and will focus on fellowship and Bible study for mothers. The group will be studying "Twelve Women of the Bible" by Lysa Terkeurst. 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. The next meeting of the group will be on April 7th. We will be on chapter two and have study books available for \$10. Call the church office for more info.



(Cont. from page 3)

Sunday Morning Changes are coming in April!

If you presently attend **worship at 9:45** and then attend Discipleship hour, you will go to Discipleship hour first and then worship. Discipleship hour will begin a little earlier at 9:25. Worship will begin at 11:00.

If you presently attend **8:30 worship** and then go to Sunday school, you will likely attend worship at 9:25 and have an option to attend Sunday School at 8:15 or 11:00. Each class will decide which hour to meet. There may be new Sunday school classes started during either hour.

If you presently attend **Sunday school at 9:45** and then attend worship service, you will attend worship service and then Sunday school. The new worship service will begin a little earlier than your Sunday class began, 9:25.

For most everyone the times you are at the church on Sunday mornings will not necessarily change much. What will likely be affected is the order you participate in worship and Sunday school; the one that was first will be second and the second will become the first.

As we lean forward into the new services and schedule, look at it as a new start. Invite un-churched friends and family members to our new worship services. Contact people who have not attended in a while. Invite them back for this new thing that is going on. It is a good time to jump in! *Pastor Keith*

Sunday Morning Change - Schedule

8:00	8:30	8:45	9:00	9:15	9:30	9:45	10:00	10:15	10:30	10:45	11:00	11:15	11:30	11:45	12:00
				Hospitality and Greeting 9:10 - 9:25	Nursery Ministry 9:25 - 12:10										
					Early Childhood Development Ministries 9:25 - 12:10										
					Elementary-Age Ministries 9:25 - 12:10										
					Mid and High School Student Ministries 9:25 - 10:35					Hospitality and Greeting 10:35 - 11:00					
					College-Age Sunday School 9:25 - 10:35										
					Adult Sunday School classes 9:25 - 10:35										
OPTIONAL "New" Adult Sunday School Hour 8:15 - 9:10					New Classic Worship Service 9:25 - 10:35						Adult Sunday School classes 11:00 - 12:10				
											"New" Contemporary Service 11:00 – 12:10				

April



Facts and Figures

2017 Budget 595,337.00
 Rec'd toward Operating 3/26/20175,333.40

Year to Date

Rec'd toward Operating 3/26/2017 128,322.99
 Expenditures 3/26/2017 118,900.43
 Sunday March 26, 2017

Sunday School 214

Worship 272

Charles	Barajas	Xander	Gannon	Jackson	Rackley
Julia	Bevers	Abigail	Garrison	Isabella	Ramirez
David	Bremmer	Leslie	Graham	Stacey	Risinger
Hazel	Bremmer	Jonah	Grisham	A'Tawjae	Sadler
Adi	Bruce	Abram	Hollon	Andrew	Schneider
Luke	Burpo	Bruce	Hunt	Jay	Sears
Jack	Butler	Breysi	Inestroza	Rod	Sipes
Colt	Centis	Jesse	Johnston	Mary	Svejkovsky
Edith	Chilcutt	Sally	Kilby	Elaine	Talbot
Violet	Conway	Lori	Knowles	John	Talbot
Crystal	Corbin	Ginger	Lusk	Zoe Beth	Vaughn
Candace	Crisswell	Lorelei	Lusk	Myion	Walker
Colt	Curtis	Gerald	Miller	Leland	Washington
Juleeonnah	Davis	Kaede	Montesano	Morgan	Weber
Jonathan	Derr	Kevin	Moore	Ozzy	Weeks
Mary Ann	Desmukes	Satine	Olivier	Skye	Westbrook
Lori	Evans	Sarah	Penland	Marie	Wolfgang
Judy	Ferguson	Benjamin	Price	Penny	Woolery
Tyler	Funk	Q'juanta	Prince-Sadler		

Prayer Box

Members, Active others known Ill or Hospitalized

Members, others needing prayer

Michelle Funk	Billie Blake
Jamie Wright	Margaret Turner
Earl Moore	Hank Brueggen
Beverly Clark	Sara Miller
Mackenzie Asher	Christie Agyemang
Irene Stafford	Dale & Jan Johnson
George & Pauly Kloss	Rita Wurzer
Don & Pat Wonderly	Louise Soileau
Leslie Earl	

St. Mark's

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

8140 NW 36th Street
 Bethany, OK 73008

St. Mark's Staff

Keith Cressman, Pastor

Becky Roman, Mission & Music Director

Sharon Hunt, Early Childhood Ministries Director

Alicia Schneider, Children's Minister

Amanda Peters, Kings & Queens Director

John Hollon, Student Minister

Colin McCartney, Mid High Minister

Pat Morford, Administrator, Communications

Christy Kiespert, 8:30 Keyboardist

Kevin & Jackie Swedlow, 9:45 Leaders of Worship

Kaleb Siler, 9:45 Leaders of Worship

Roger Pautsch, 11:00 Organist

Jackie Swedlow, Accountant