

"Become a part of 50 Days of Prayer"

Jesus accomplished more than words can describe during his earthly ministry. Perhaps most celebrated is his death and resurrection. In his death, he put death to death. In his resurrection, he restored eternal life. For these and many other reasons, we celebrate Easter as the most holy day of the year. Come worship the Lord Jesus Christ this Sunday.

Jesus' work includes another miracle that, while available today, is less celebrated. He did not complete it until he had ascended into heaven. It is among the primary purposes of his ministry. Jesus baptizes his followers with the Holy Spirit.

Fifty days, not counting Sundays, following Easter we celebrate the baptism of the Holy Spirit. We call that Sunday *Pentecost*.

Just as we prepare for Easter during Lent, so too, we can prepare for Pentecost. The disciples sought Jesus during that time. Our motives are the same; to know and experience God and live a more holy life.

During the fifty days leading to Pentecost, you are invited to participate in "50 Days of Prayer." Each week the devotions for that week will be loaded to our website (www.stmarksbethany.com), through links posted on the website home page. From there you will be able to read or download the devotions in a device-friendly .pdf format.

My prayer is that, like the disciples, we will continue to develop deeper, stronger and more powerful relationships with Jesus Christ and, with each other, realize the fullness of his grace and mercy.

Praise be to the Lord!

Pastor Keith



I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, will give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation that makes God known to you. Ephesians 1:17 (CEB)

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!



SECOND WINDERS

Second Winders next meeting will
be on Thursday, April 12th at
noon. Come join us as we have
a great pulled pork dinner. Meal
cost: \$5. Those with last names
beginning with letters H-M please
bring desserts.

The program will be a trip to Italy presented by
Barbara Gardner



Staff Changes: John Hollon

We appreciate those who serve St. Mark's as members of our
staff team. We are blessed with a dedicated and committed
group of leaders. From time to time there will be changes. A
change is coming.

John Hollon serves as minister with mid- and senior-high stu-
dents. John is a valued member of our leadership team.

Many of us know John not only as Student Minister, but also
for preaching once a month or because of his wonderful fami-

ly. As of June 1, he will begin new responsibilities as Associate Pastor at First United Meth-
odist Church-Ardmore. This new position will provide John with opportunities to continue to
use and develop his ministry. We will miss the entire Hollon family.

There will be a special time of recognition and appreciation during the all-church picnic on
Sunday, May 27. In the meantime, when you see John, congratulate him and wish him, Emi-
ly, and their children the very best.



Kings and Queens next respite will be held on Friday, April 13th.

Please be in prayer for this ministry as it continues to reach through
the community to meet special needs.

The next Kings & Queens Special Needs Family Bible Study will be April 25th. If you know a
family that this would be helpful for let them know of this opportunity.



Next meeting of Arise will be April 15th, 5:00 pm. Everyone welcome to join us as we grow together and seek God in looking at who God is calling us to be at St. Mark's. This session we will continue to analyze the demographic data from our mission area and the interviews conducted by team members.

New Church Directories in!

Our long awaited directories are in and if you had your portrait made you can pick one up in the church office at your convenience. Please mark your name off the list when you pick your directory off so we know who still needs to get theirs.



STUDENT MINISTRY

I hope this warmer weather is doing a great bit for your soul as it is mine. There are a lot of things to keep us up to date on as we move through the rest of Spring and Summer, so lets get to the details.

Wednesday, April 11th- Please plan to join us for our praise and worship along with small groups. We are finishing a great series and you wont want to miss. We meet from 6:30-8pm in the youth room.

Sunday, April 15th-We have our last Metro Worship of the school year. We will be traveling to New Covenant UMC to worship and fellowship with our friend from across the greater metro area. Plan to meet at St. Marks at 5:15pm and return no later than 8pm.

Upcoming Reminders

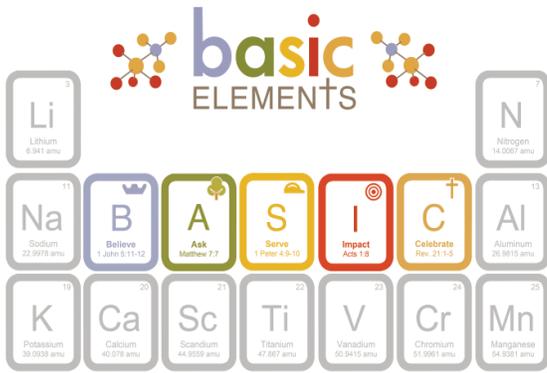
Parent Meeting-Colin and Lydia are planning and organizing a parent meeting regarding camps and Summer schedule for the student ministry. They would love to have all parents or students representing their parents at this meeting. The meeting will be Sunday, April 29th at 12:30 in Barnett Hall. Lunch will be provided please RSVP no later than Wednesday, April 25th with your number attending. Thank you!

Senior Sunday- April 29th we will celebrate our seniors in the 10:55am worship service. Plan to attend and worship with this wonderful group of students!

Confirmation Sunday-May 6th we will usher in our new Confirmands, please plan to attend this special day was we welcome this new group into the church at large!

John Hollon
Youth Pastor





We Need YOU!

This summer St. Mark's is hosting
 B.A.S.I.C. Elements Science VBS
 June 4-8, 5:30-8:30.
 Dinner served at 5:00.

In order to pull off this amazing week of hands-on science, crazy skits and devotional teaching, we need YOU! It is only through the work and dedication of volunteer servants that we can provide

such a memorable, gospel-focused experience for kids in our community.

We're looking for volunteers in all areas — VBS set up, room teachers, skit performers, musicians, prayer team, and more.

If you have older children not attending VBS, consider signing up to volunteer together. A recent research study showed that 75 percent of kids who are part of a strong evangelical church will leave the church and any connection to Christ from age 18-29. BUT, one common factor among the 25 percent who DO NOT leave the church was serving with their families in a faith-based ministry.

This summer could be the perfect opportunity for you to begin serving together as a family.

Contact Alicia Schneider to volunteer.

VBS Items Needed

With the theme of VBS being science based we have a few specialty items that are needed. If you have any of the items below that we can use it would be very helpful.

A variety of size (3" and up) of Styrofoam balls. Can be any color, used, dented are ok. Will be painted and used as planets in displays

Pool noodles - any color, used are ok
 (all items for decorations— children will not be using them.)

**Register now for
 Mark'd Kids Day Camp
 June 5-July 26
 9:30-2:30, Tuesdays/Thursdays**

You can register online at
stmarksbethany.com
 Go to "ministries" and click on
 "Mark'd Kids Day Camp"
 to get all information and rules and
 fill out registration for summer 2018



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

Sunday School for elementary aged children:

9:30-10:45 - "This I Know: dial 911: emergency!" Children will study various stories from the Bible in which there was an emergency or a scary moment. Children will be challenged to fix their eyes on Jesus, and walk in His ways.

We teach in a large group/small group format; we begin with worship and the Bible lesson in large group, then children are dismissed to small groups divided by grade/age to do activities such as games, crafts, Scripture memorization, or prayers to further understand how our lesson applies to their day to day lives.

11:-11:15 - Children are brought to the sanctuary to participate in the opening worship songs, prayers, and other aspects of the service. Children are encouraged to come and participate in a children's sermon time, and following that, are welcome to sit with their parents or guardians for the remainder of the worship service time, or they are welcome to go back to children's area with Ms. Alicia.

During this last hour, we will focus again on the lesson God is teaching us through the Bible story that was taught in the first hour. We will typically watch a short video to demonstrate the message, and participate in more activities which help the children understand the importance of living faithfully with God as their focus.

Elementary children's Sunday school is for children ages kindergarten through 4th grade. We do have a special needs ministry that is available upon request to help children with special needs during services.

TeamKID

Tonight at TeamKID, we will learn that importance of being JOYFUL! Children will learn the difference between happiness and joy. Through Paul's life, kids will see that they can choose to be joyful in all circumstances. Memory Verse is Psalm 16:11 "You always show me the path of life. You will fill me with joy when I am with you. You will make me happy forever at your right hand." Looking forward to seeing everyone tonight at 6:30! ~Miss Alicia



April 11: Be Joyful

MV - Psalm 16:11

April 18: Be a Good Leader

MV - I Timothy 4:12

April 25: Be Helpful

MV - Galatians 6:2

May 2: Be Loyal

MV - Zechariah 7:9

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





Thanks! 

A big thanks to the Trustees for purchasing new mulch for the playground. Also, a large thanks to the Boy Scouts who took on the project of taking a large pile of mulch and spreading it throughout the playground making it a safe and healthy place for children to play!

April

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Facts and Figures

2018 Budget 590,255
 Rec'd toward Operating 4/8/2018 11,514
Year to Date
 Rec'd toward Operating 3/25/2018133,867
 Expenditures 3/25/2018.....108,837

Attendance

Sunday April 8, 2018

Worship 239
 Sunday School178

Jay	Sears	Gerald	Miller	Elaine	Talbot
Julia	Bevers	Q'juanta	Prince-Sadler	Ginger	Lusk
David	Bremmer	Marie	Wolfgang	Candace	Crisswell
Jesse	Johnston	Amy	King	Abram	Hollon
Judy	Ferguson	Andrew	Schneider	Kaede	Montesano
Jim	McMinn	Alexander	Gannon	Tyler	Funk
Crystal	Corbin	Sally	Kilby	Morgan	Weber
Mary Ann	Desmukes	Abigail	Garrison	Hazel	Bremmer
Leslie	Graham	Jackson	Rackley	Edith	Chilcutt
Bruce	Hunt	John	Talbot	Lynne	Kanary
Lorelei	Lusk	Sydney	Jacobsen	A'Tawjae	Sadler
Sarah	Penland	Isabella	Ramirez	Adam	Votaw
Stacey	Risinger	Zoe Beth	Vaughn	Rod	Sipes
Lori	Evans	Kevin	Moore	Jack	Butler
Penny	Woolery	Mary	Svejkovsky	Lori	Knowles

Prayer Box

Don & Fran Nobles	Don Wonderly
Kieth Ballard	Montesano family
Betty Miller	Beverly Clark
Funk family	John Baumeister
Lola Willis	Vic Gammill
Doris Saxon	Laurie Buckholtz
Dale & Jan Johnson	Frank Wilkerson
Ed & Gina Boerner	Dot Lyon
Kason Knutson & family	Billie Blake
Larry Kelly	Connie Reed