

"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)

Calm Voices

Do you remember hearing something like, "calm voices prevail?" A similar adage is "the first to yell loses."

The writer of Proverbs shares, "A gentle answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger." Pr. 15:1 (NIV). And again, "Through patience a ruler can be persuaded..." Pr. 25:15. Patience, gentleness and self-control are all listed among the fruit of the Spirit. Galatians 5:22-24.

The times are anxious. From local issues to international diplomacy, there are many provocative, bombastic voices. We do not need to join the chorus. Instead, we are needed to offer calming voices that listen and care while moving toward sustainable solutions.

In charged and tense times, it is important for each of us to remain as calm and even-tempered as possible; to regulate our own anxiety levels. Toward this goal, I suggest stepping back (perspective), taking deep breaths (self-control), and making time with Jesus (humble strength).

Jesus invites us to pull away for times with him (Mark 6:31) and offers to trade our backpacks of anxiety and trouble for his light burden:

Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light. Matthew 11:28-30

We are not able to control the temperature of those around us, but we can control ourselves. We need leaders who set a calm, reasonable tone rather than stir up hot passions. To the extent each of us will lead, others need us to be the cool heads and calm voices in the room.

God help us.

With His Grace,

Pastor Keith

PS – Search "gentle" in your Bible app for more on gentle, respectful attitudes toward others.



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



April 7th, is the next men's breakfast. The group meets the first Saturday of each month for a time of food, fellowship and

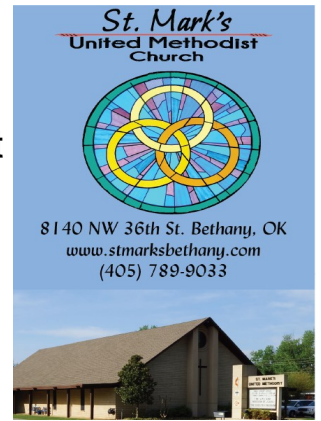
faith. All men are invited and welcome to attend. Breakfast at 8:00 am. We will finish by 9:15 am. Come join us! Contact Brad Cromwell for more information.



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.



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



STUDENT MINISTRY

Wednesday, April 4th-We will have Spaghetti for a \$2 dinner from 5:30-6:15 before programming. Please reserve your spot early. We also are back to our normal praise and worship and small groups from 6:30-8pm. I hope to see all our wonderful youth there!

Please let me know if you have any questions or need anything. Blessings!

John Hollon
Youth Pastor



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.



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.)

THANKS! What an amazing Holy Week and Easter and **SO MANY** made it go well and truly make a difference in people's lives. Great job St. Markians!!





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, kids will learn that God is COMPASSIONATE. Kids will be encouraged to be more aware of people around them who need love and care. Memory verse is 1 Peter 3:8, "Finally, I want all of you to agree with one another. Be understanding. Love one another. Be kind and tender. Be humble." See you all tonight! ~Miss Alicia



April 4: Be Compassionate MV - I Peter 3:8

April 11: Be Joyful MV - Psalm 16:11

April 18: Be a Good Leader MV - I Timothy 4:12

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY DIRECTOR:

Alicia Schneider
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Email: alicia@stmarksbethany.com

EARLY CHILDHOOD MINISTRY DIRECTOR:

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Facts and Figures

2018 Budget 590,255
 Rec'd toward Operating 3/25/2018 6,615
Year to Date
 Rec'd toward Operating 3/25/2018133,867
 Expenditures 3/25/2018.....108,837

Attendance

Sunday April 1, 2018

Worship 353
 Sunday School163

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|----------|----------|-----------|---------------|----------|-----------|
| 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

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|------------------------|------------------|
| 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 |
| Cody Hunt | Rhonda Morrison |
| Rae Jean Burke | |