

## E-Messenger

Our Mission Statement To build a family of believers  
where the lost are becoming fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ

### *Friday Nights In July* **THIS FRIDAY - 9:00 pm**

St. Mark's will be hosting a weekly movie on the lawn in July starting **This Friday**. This is for both members and their families as well as the community. We want to reach out to those around the church and make St. Mark's a great place to be for them. We will need help to spread the word around the neighborhood and with welcoming families. **There is no cost.** Just bring your cooler filled with your favorite non-alcoholic beverages a lawn chair and enjoy. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Licensing restrictions prevent us from publishing titles, however call the church office 789-9033 for movie titles.



### Mark Your Calendars Now! Sunday, August 23rd, 5:30 pm St. Mark's Fall Kickoff

It's not too early to make plans to attend St. Mark's big kickoff for Fall of 2015. The day will include great activities for all. Plans are to have hotdogs for all, a dessert contest, fun activities for all ages and a great way to let everyone know the vision of St. Mark's for this coming Fall. Put it on your calendar and think of ways to invite others to come out for just some good old fun on the lawn.

## **Pastor's Perspective**

### **Marriage and the US Supreme Court**

A recent decision of the US Supreme Court found that laws defining marriage as a relationship between a man and a woman are unconstitutional. The court based its ruling on the equal protection clause of the 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment to the Constitution of the USA.

The court's new definition of marriage is out of step with the laws, practice, and understanding of most civilized societies and cultures for thousands of years as well as the heritage, culture, and traditions of the United States. The definition is also at odds with the definition of marriage as taught by the United Methodist Church.

The United Methodist Church teaches that marriage is an exclusive covenant relationship between one man and one woman. This definition agrees with the teaching of Scripture and Christian tradition. The decision by the court does not affect our teaching and belief. Some are concerned that the court's ruling will impact the free practice of religion pertaining to marriage. The court, in dicta contained in the ruling, offers consolation that religious organizations will continue to be free to teach their faith. In practice, however, 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment cases have been used to limit access to and benefits of government services otherwise available to organizations protected under the First Amendment. For example, organizations objecting to court imposed 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment requirements on the basis of First Amendment rights have been threatened with the loss of favorable tax or tax exempt status. The tension between First Amendment free exercise of religion interests and Fourteenth Amendment LGBTQ marriage interests will likely be resolved through future court cases or, possibly, a Constitutional amendment.

In the meantime, LGBTQ marriages will not be held at St. Mark's or officiated by your pastor. In accordance with local church policy on leadership expectations regarding sexual ethics and conduct, the pastor as well as other leaders are expected to be celibate in singleness and faithful in marriage. The term 'marriage' is used as defined by the Church, not the court. 'Leadership' is defined to include all church leaders as well as leaders of scout troops and other organizations chartered by or closely affiliated with St Mark's.

And finally, all people, regardless of sexual behavior and choices, are loved by God. We are all sinners in need of God's love and the grace of Jesus Christ. We welcome all persons to worship at St. Mark's and join us in the journey of becoming fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ.

Pastor Keith Cressman

## Church Wide Service Day

July 25th - 10:00 am

We will be putting together Health Kits for UMCOR. These are a great way to meet needs around the world. We are putting together 100 Health Kits and need lots of hands to make it happen. Read more details about the Health Kits next column.



st. mark's student ministries



Great week of Dayspring camp this past week.

God moved in a powerful way. To see more pictures go to

[www.stmarksbethany.com](http://www.stmarksbethany.com).

Let's make all our camps this summer be a springboard into an amazing year ahead.

## St. Mark's Church Wide Service Project

### UMCOR Health Kits Items

July 25th 10:00 am

**It is important when donating items that they fit the description below or they won't be usable. If you have questions about an item contact Barbara Gardner @ 650-4936**

Your help is needed to help provide both supplies and to help put packages together. You can bring your supplies anytime and deposit in church foyer or office. Then make plans to help put the kits together on July 25th.

#### Items needed in each kit:

##### 1 hand towel

15" x 25" to 17" x 27"

kitchen, cleaning and microfiber towels not acceptable

##### 1 washcloth

##### 1 comb

comb needs to be sturdy and longer than 6"

no pocket combs or picks, please

rattail combs and combs without handles are acceptable with a minimum of 6" of teeth

##### 1 metal nail file or clipper

no emery boards, please

##### 1 bath-size soap

3 oz. and larger sizes only

no Ivory or Jergens soap due to moisture content

do not remove from original packaging

##### 1 toothbrush

adult size only

do not remove from original packaging

##### 6 adhesive bandages

¾" to 1" size

common household Band-Aids

##### 1 plastic bag

one-gallon size sealable bags only



**Goal: 100 Health Kits**

#### Important notes:

- All items must be new.
- Do not wash any of the items as they will be considered used.
- Please remove all packaging.
- All emergency kits are carefully planned to make them usable in the greatest number of situations. Since strict rule govern entry into international countries it is important that kits contain only items requested and nothing more.
- DO NOT include any person notes, money or additional items.
- UMCOR is purchasing toothpaste in bulk to be added. Put any monies for toothpaste in separate envelopes and mark for toothpaste.



**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 MORNINGS:

Time 9:30 am - 12:00 pm

Age Kind. - 4th grade

Room Brown Room

Program The Adventure

Sunday morning, our goal is to teach the Bible, plain and simple. We believe the Word of God is essential to study and learn in order to grow in faith and relationship with Jesus Christ. Children are encouraged to bring their personal Bibles from home in order to practice looking up Scripture. If a child does not have a Bible, we will give one to the child for them to take home and keep. During Hour 1, 9:45-10:45, children get an overview of the day's Bible lesson and do a craft, game, or activity related to that Bible story.

During Hour 2, 11:00-Noon, children spend 25-30 minutes in a large group lesson time, then split into small groups for the last half hour. Small groups are divided according to grade.

## WEDNESDAY EVENINGS

Each Wednesday evening in June and July, we will be praising the Lord our God through different art mediums. We will be doing drama, painting, sculpting, crafting, and music. We will learn how to worship God in many ways, and use the gifts God has given each of us in creativity. Cost \$20



## MARK'D KIDS DAY CAMP



## SUMMER SESSION:

Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9:30 am until 2:30 pm

June 9, 2015 – July 30, 2015,

closed July 2 for holiday

Registration closed - Pray for this great time of ministry



# Undie Sunday

Sunday August 2, 2015

Please bring **NEW underwear** for needy children at Council Grove Elementary School (Council Rd and Melrose). Underwear will stock the clothing closet at the school for emergency needs. The school serves 437 children (93% low income).

**New boys and girls underwear briefs sizes 4, 6, 8, and 10 are needed.**

Drive sponsored by ROCK class. Undies will be collected during church services.



## Put it on your Calendar

Reserve your space or the 55 Alive- Defensive Driving Course.

Saturday, August 11,

9:00 am—3:00 pm at St. Mark's

Cost AARP members: \$15

Non-members \$20

usu-  
pre-  
Completion of this course  
ally reduces insurance  
miums. The course is  
open to any driver (including teens) with  
an Oklahoma driver's license. There is a  
sign up sheet on the office ledge.



## Perspectives on the

### World Christian Movement.

In the spring St. Mark's hosted a Perspectives class attended by a great group from here.

The next class is now taking enrollment and if you missed out, this is a great opportunity for you to be a part.

*Perspectives* will be offered this this Fall in Edmond at Vintage Church at 711 S. Kelly Ave. It will run from August 17– December 3rd on Monday evenings, 6:00 - 9:00.

For more information, please feel free to contact me. Also, look at the website,

[www.perspectives.org](http://www.perspectives.org) . Just enter Edmond, OK to go to specifics and registration.



**A HUGE THANKS** to all those who helped with Project Transformation this year. You have made a difference in a child's life. May God richly bless you for giving of your time and your self in this way. The helpers were:

**Laurie Bucholtz, Darlene Calvert, Barbara Gardner, Leslie Graham, Jan Greve, Darlene Hickman, Lily Hummel, Judy Knight, Dot Lyon, Romona McKibben, Sara Miller, Ed Orr, Louie Richardson, Donna Shriver, Beverly Tully, Sherry White, Nancy Ward, and Pat Wonderly.**



PROJECT TRANSFORMATION

## Oklahoma Scots Night Out 2nd Annual Bard-B-Que

Honoring Robert Burns in the month of his death!

This tradition was started in Scotland shortly after his death by a number of his friends.



Location: St. Mark's United Methodist Church

8140 NW 36th Bethany Oklahoma

July 25th, 2015

from 5:00 pm until 8:00pm

Pot Luck Dinner: Bring your favorite Scottish or Picnic food to share Ice Tea and Lemonade will be provided.

Family Friendly Event

Open to all ages

Come out for some Burns Poems and Scottish Fellowship!

Please contact Laura German 406-7165 if able to attend by July 23.

## Bear One Another's Burdens; In this way you will fulfill the Law of Christ Galatians 6:2.

A Stephen Minister is avail-



**STEPHEN MINISTRY**  
*Christ Caring for People through People*

able to be there for

you. Call Gwen Sears (261-6019),

Jan Greve (350-0959), Dorthy

Lynch (789-2556) or Carla

Brueggen (203-8555) for more information.

## Facts and Figures

2015 Budget ..... 595,000.00

Rec'd toward Operating 7/12/2015 ..... 11,764.52

### Year to Date

Rec'd toward Operating 7/12/2015 ..... 312,343.74

Expenditures 7/12/2015 ..... 285,873.57

### Sunday, July 12, 2015

Sunday School ..... 229

Worship..... 255

## Prayer Box

### Members, Active others known Ill or Hospitalized

Garner Family	McGowan Family	Jeff Montesano
Harold Kessler	Phil Bonifield	Teresa Kruta
Brehm Family	Longoria Family	Bill Rosenthal
Hank Brueggen	Michelle Funk	Attalla Family
Talbot Family	Chessmore Family	Jamie Wright
Steve & Beverly Clark	Romona McKibben	Trevion Collins

Happy Birthday

JULY

Avery	Attalla	Chandra	Grisham	Teresah	Mungiria
Linda	Beck	Judah	Hargrave	Ethan	Patterson
Debi	Bermel	Erica	Harlow	Carl	Pouncil
Beverley	Bevins	Paula	Heath	Shaikeem	Prince-Sadler
Annie	Biege	Marilyn	Heightley	Macy	Robertson
Don	Brock	Dwayne	Hickman	Debra	Sample
Laurie	Bucholtz	Cambry	Hollon	Laura	Seapy
Becky	Chessmore	Isaiah	Hollon	Ashlynn	Sears
Anthony	Clay	Shirley	Jackson	Leslie	Sipes
Jovie	Cromwell	Pauline	Kloss	Coral	Snider
Hannah	Evans	Gabriella	Kolajo	Allan	Snider
John	Evans	Dot	Lyon	Gloria	Straka
Jasilyn	Ferguson	Maddie	Madison	Spencer	Teague
Brandon	Funk	Samuel	Markstone	Susan	Thompson
Sharon	Gammill	Travis	Miller	Skyler	Wolfgang
Marissa	Garcia	Alexandrea	Montesano	Edie	Wooten
Hunter	Goding	Tiffany	Montesano		