



# ST. MARK'S BETHANY NEWSLETTER

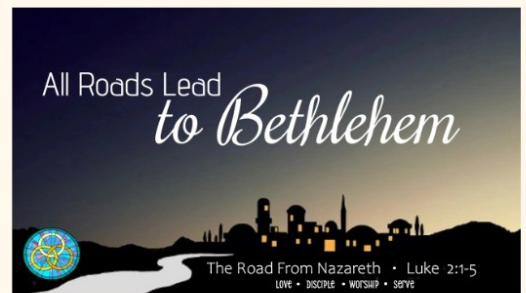
## JOIN US THIS SUNDAY FOR WORSHIP!

### SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES

- 8:30 New Life Rm 18  
Sonshine Rm 17
- 9:30 Books of the Bible Rm 17  
Disciple Rm 18  
Young Adults Rm 5
- 10:45 Faithbuilders Rm 18  
Good News Rm 5  
R.O.C.K. Rm 19  
Understanding God's Word Rm 17  
Epistle of Romans

This Sunday is the third Sunday of Advent. Pastor Randy will be continuing the sermon series, "All Roads Lead to Bethlehem" with the sermon is "The Road From Nazareth" using the scripture Luke 2:1-5.

We look forward to seeing you this Sunday and in sharing the joy of worship together as we continue our journey of Advent and prepare our hearts. The theme of the third week of Advent is joy, and it celebrates the announcement of Christ's birth to the shepherds.



Traditional services begin at 9:30 am and the Modern service begins at 10:55 am. If you are unable to attend Worship services in person, there will be a live streaming of each service.

To watch the live stream, please join us at:

9:30 am Sunday morning

10:55 am Sunday morning

## Christmas Eve Offering to Help Replace MEFI Drop-In Center Roof

Every year, we dedicate our Christmas Eve special offering to support local and global missions. This year, the offering will go to MEFI, one of our longest-standing mission partnerships. Their Drop-In Center is desperately in need of a new roof and we want to make sure it happens!

If you'd like to give in advance of December 24, simply write "Christmas Eve Offering" in the memo line of your check or select "Christmas Eve Special Offering" when giving online through Church Center.

Thank you for supporting this vital ministry!

MEFI is a ministry reaching out to Mexico City's homeless children and young people. MEFI is a ministry aimed at saving street children from a life of drugs, prostitution, and abuse. The vision is to equip and train the local churches of Mexico to unite and lead society in the eradication of homelessness among children and young people.

ST. MARK'S BETHANY

Christmas  
Eve Offering

MEFI ministers to the spiritual, physical, and emotional needs of homeless young people in Mexico City.

Donate to help replace  
the roof at the MEFI  
Drop-In Center

# WEDNESDAY NIGHT SCHEDULE

December 11  
5:30 pm



Spaghetti

6:15 pm

Sm  
kids

(SM)<sup>2</sup>  
STUDENT MINISTRY

ENCOURAGING  
TEACHERS  
BIBLE STUDY

6:30 pm



CHOIR PRACTICE

## Poinsettias to Decorate Sanctuary for Advent

Poinsettias help decorate the sanctuary for this coming Advent Season. You can dedicate one in memory of or in honor of a loved one, and you will be able to take it home with you following Christmas Eve Services.



Each 6" plant is \$20. Please pay on or before December 14th. Credit/debit can be accepted online in Church Center under Registrations. To pay pay check/cash, please sign up with the church office.

*Christmas Eve*  
SERVICE

December 24th  
4:00 PM - Family & Children Service  
7:00 PM - Traditional Service  
11:00 PM - Traditional Service

ALL CHURCH  
*Caroling*

DECEMBER 18TH

6:00 PM

WILL MEET AT THE CHURCH AND CARPOOL TO THE DIFFERENT LOCATIONS.

CONTACT KELLY JO POSS OR KATHI FISHER FOR MORE INFORMATION.

Care Share



THANK YOU FOR YOUR LOVING,  
GENEROUS HEARTS!!

The gifts have all been delivered!  
We were blessed to buy more gifts than ever before this year for the school we partner with!

Thank you once again!



## Difference Makers Needed

Want to make a difference in a child's life? Difference Makers are needed for smKids on Sunday mornings at 9:15 to 10:45 or 10:45 to 12:00 noon.

Contact Sharon Hunt to find out how YOU can make a difference!

## Men's Breakfast Saturday - Dec. 14



## New Study Beginning in January - The Prayer Practice

Whether you think you already know about and how to pray ... or wish you were better at ... or practicing the way...

The Prayer  
Practice

Practicing the Way

**COME AND GO DEEPER!**

There are two opportunities to attend "The Prayer Practice." One will start on Sunday, January 5th at 8:30 am in Room 17 (Sonshine), and/or ...

Another class will start on Tuesday, January 7th at 1 PM in Room 18. Same content, different times.

No books are needed for the study.

Kathi Fisher and Beverly Ray will be leading this study. Come join us!

## Second Winders Meeting December 12th

Second Winders will have their monthly meeting on December 12th beginning at 11:00 am with the CDO Christmas Program. Lunch will be at 12:00 noon and will include beans and cornbread and other sides and, of course, dessert for a \$5 donation.

The meal will be followed by "Jesus" Bingo and prizes. There will also be a Christmas sweet treat exchange.

If you are over 21, we hope to see you there!

# YOUTH WINTER RETREAT 24



**YOUTH WINTER RETREAT 24**  
BEING THE CHURCH

February 14-16 at Sky Ranch Cave Springs  
Get ready for it! Cost: \$135  
or you can use STRIVE Credits

Deadline to Sign up is **February 1st**  
For Questions get ahold of Bequer  
bequer@stmarksbethany.com

**(SM)<sup>2</sup>** SCAN FOR REGISTRATION FORM  
STUDENT MINISTRY

The Youth Winter Retreat is coming up February 14-16 at Sky Ranch in Peoria, Oklahoma.

Use the QR code to sign up!

The group will leave St. Mark's on Friday at 5:00 PM and return to OKC around 4:30 PM on Sunday.

Cost of the retreat is \$135 and includes a t-shirt and meals!

**Just a reminder...**

**Please Help Keep Our Kitchen Clean!**



The church is a facility shared by many people and groups. If you are planning to use the kitchen, please be courteous to others and leave the kitchen as clean (or cleaner) than you found it.

Some helpful hints to keep in mind -

- Schedule your event in advance.
- If you are unable to clean up after the event yourself, ask someone to help in advance. Please do not save the clean-up to another day.
- Leftover food should be removed or discarded. Don't leave food trash inside the building - use dumpsters in the south parking lot.
- Please wipe down all surfaces and sweep the floor. Mop or wipe up any spills as needed.

**Thank you!!!**

*Want the best seat in church?*



**CONTACT KELLY JO POSS FOR INFORMATION!**

## **Our Local Missions**

Check out the LOCAL MISSIONS on the wall across from the sanctuary!!!  
Remember them this Christmas season!



ROC can always use our donations of canned and boxed food, especially cereal. A Grocery Basket is in the narthex for your donations!



Willow Pregnancy Support can always use our donations of newborn - 6 clothes, shoes to size 13, diapers size 4, 5, and 6, bottles, bath wash and lotion and Good Start Formula. Thank you so much for your donations!



**Greeters needed**

CONTACT FRED OR CAROL DALTON

# Sm kids

## Sunday Mornings Kidmin

### CONGRATULATIONS



THE LORD BLESS YOU AND KEEP YOU; THE LORD FACE SHINE UPON YOU



THE POSS FAMILY ON THE ADOPTION OF MISS. AMAYA

RAYLEE FULLER ON BEING CREATED NEW IN HER BAPTISM

### ADVENT SCRIPTURE SCRATCH-OFF



All Church



Caroling Dec. 18

Contact Kelly Jo

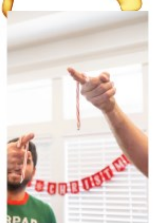


**Christmas Trivia**  
What is the Angels name that appeared to Mary and Joseph in a dream?



## Kidmin Christmas Party December 11th

Human Hungry Hungry Hippo  
Candy Cane Olympics starting at 6:15



What does it feel like to wait?

What does it feel like to wait?  
Read Isaiah 9  
But even in the waiting, God is at work, preparing you for what lies ahead.  
Read Luke 1:46-55  
God is faithful in the waiting.  
Talk about what this means.  
So, keep watch.  
The King is coming!



Word of Wonder  
Isaiah 9:6

A child will be born to us. A son will be given to us. He will rule over us. And he will be called Wonderful Adviser and Mighty God. He will also be called Father Who Lives Forever and Prince Who Brings Peace.

Elementary

A child will be born. He will be the Prince of Peace.

Early Childhood



Look at the Candy Cane What do you see?  
Stripes that are red Like the blood shed for me

White is for my Savior Who's sinless and pure! 'J' is for Jesus My Lord, that's for sure!

Turn it around And a staff you will see Jesus my shepherd Was born for Me!



Train up a child in the way he should go, even when he is old he will not depart from it. Proverbs 22:6





# KINGS AND QUEENS

DECEMBER 2024



Kings and Queens is not just a Respite program, we also help families plug into our Wednesday nights and Sunday morning programs. Reach out to Kayla Gannon for information!

**Kings and Queens Thursday Respite Night** had a great night out Christmas shopping for their family and friends! We ate pizza, field trip to Five Below, and back to wrap presents! Such a fun night!

**Kings and Queens Friday Respite Night** We had lots of fun exploring sensory activities and spending time together!



**Upcoming!!**

**DECEMBER RESPITE WILL BE COMBINED! WE HAVE LOTS OF FUN ACTIVITIES PLANNED FOR THE EVENING!**

**Special Thanks!**

We are so grateful for the generous donations from the **Methodist Women's** group to help purchase Christmas gifts for our Kings and Queens kids!



# COMING UP!

December 11 - Wednesday Night Meals  
5:30 SPAGHETTI

6:15 KidMin  
6:15 Youth Ministry  
6:15 King Jesus Bible Study  
6:30 Choir Rehearsal

December 12 - Second Winders  
CDO Christmas Program

December 13 - Kings & Queens  
Combined Group

December 14 - Men's Breakfast

December 18 - Caroling

December 24 - Christmas Eve  
Services at 4, 7 & 11 PM

December 25 - CHRISTMAS

December 29 - Combined Service

January 1 - NEW YEAR'S DAY

**WELCOME**  
*new members*  
.....


Claire and Terry Twichell  
Beverly and Bill Kindred  
Nancy and Steve Gray  
Julie, Troy and Raylee Fuller

## FACTS & FIGURES

2024 Annual Budget	603,578
Rec'd toward Operating 12/07/2024 .....	12,529
Year to Date 2024	
Rec'd toward offering (thru 12/07/24) .....	550,229
Expenses (12/07/24) .....	551,653

### ATTENDANCE

Sunday, December 8 Total	329
Traditional Worship .....	206
Modern Worship .....	52
Online Worship .....	71



God doesn't expect you to bear your burdens alone  
If you know someone who could benefit from the care of a Stephen Minister contact a Stephen Leader or our church office



Prayer Tools  
Intercessory Prayer  
Pray Alone  
Be Prayed For/With  
Come & Go  
EXPERIENCE GOD

Wednesdays 5:00-6:00 pm

Prayer Team meets 5:00-5:30 pm



## Prayer Board

Bill Kindred	Dennis Bratcher
Beverly Clark	Fisher Marchant (Daughter of Jen Marchant and Granddaughter of Kathi & Mike Fisher)
Barbara Homer	Lief Hill (son of a friend of Wayne Barnes)
Barbara Hill	Jim Brown
Sara Miller	Fred Dalton
Family of Arno Pautsch	Winn Lusk
Michelle (co-worker of Sara Votaw)	Dianna Davidson
Mike Nail (Jerry Grady's stepdad)	Judy McMinn
Larry Grady (Jerry Grady's brother)	Cheryl Andrews
Laurie Buckholtz	Jeff & Tiffany Montesano
Evelyn Moore	
Cindy Wilkerson (DIL of Frank & Nadine Wilkerson)	
Jan Greve	