



# Messenger

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

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## **Christianity & Culture Conference to be Held at St Mark's, April 13-15.**

We are the host church for The Christianity & Culture Conference to be held April 13-15. World View Academy presents C&C Conferences at only a few locations across the United States each year. Do not miss this opportunity to better understand the reason we have hope in Christ Jesus.

The Christianity & Culture Conference is a powerful event designed to help our church and guests understand worldviews, get a Biblical perspective on current issues, understand the implications and consequences of ideas and the culture, strengthen faith with a consistent biblical worldview, be reassured that the Bible is true, practical and applicable to every area of life, and be motivated to translate knowledge into action.

The Conference brings nationally-known and gifted faculty to St. Mark's for a series of presentations and breakout sessions designed to address cultural issues in the light of Scripture. Sessions are filled with provocative discussions, laughter, and revealing insight into our culture.

The event will begin Friday evening, continue to Saturday, and conclude Sunday morning. Advance registration will be required. More information is coming soon.

## **Sermon Series: Knowing and Following Jesus**

Pastor Keith began a new sermon series January 8. He is teaching highlights of the Gospel of Mark from now through Easter. The intent of the series is to challenge our members and guests, who have a wide range of commitment to Jesus Christ, to follow Jesus more closely as we know him more intimately. As we know and obey Jesus, we become more fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ.

Message on January 22: *Even Nature Bows*, Mark 1:14-15; 4:35-41.

## Becoming a Stephen Minister

I first heard of the Stephen's Ministry outreach at St. Mark's through Beverly Bevins. I was looking for resources that I could use in our Employee Assistance Program at The Children's Center. Beverly introduced me to Jan Greve and after several conversations, Jan graciously consented to allow our employees to be served by St. Mark's Stephen Ministers.



When I expressed interest in learning more about the ministry, I was invited to attend the continuing hours seminars provided at the church. What a great resource they became both to me and the employees at The Children's Center. I have already been able to recommend some of those community service organizations to those in need at work.

Another very helpful resource I use now because of the Stephen's Ministry has been the *Journeying Through Grief* series. Having used it for almost a year now, I am offering it on a monthly basis. In an organization with 450 employees, loss and grief is an ongoing issue. Many have commented about how helpful this information was in helping them deal with their need.

Becoming a Stephen's Minister was just the finishing step for me. Although having a counselor's degree, I was especially interested in the "distinctively Christian" approach offered in the Stephen's Ministry training. I have not been disappointed. It is an excellent program.

The Stephen's Ministry through St. Mark's has been an invaluable resource and blessing to me personally and has already greatly benefited the employees at The Children's Center. Thank you to Beverly, Jan and the others at St. Mark's who have blessed us with their generous and compassionate hearts. *Barbara Youngblood*

## Odds and Ends

Thanks to our February hosts and hostesses for our fellowship time on Sunday mornings. They are from the Good News Class.

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Reminder – The next mailed newsletter will be mailed on February 21. We are mailing out newsletters once a month. The web newsletter is updated each week. Web address is [stmarksbethany.org](http://stmarksbethany.org).

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New Chairs! Now that Children's Ministry has moved into a much needed, bigger space on Sunday mornings, we also had a need for more chairs. We now have a total of 60 18-inch chairs (which also fit adults) to use on Sunday mornings or for any group that wants to use them in Barnett Hall. Thank you church for supporting growing ministries within our building with these new chairs!!

## Generous Giving Continues to be a Part of St Mark's Identity

St. Mark's accomplishes mission. We are always most effective when we prayerfully follow Jesus Christ. One way we follow is by generously giving money to fund ministry. Thanks to generous, consistent giving, we help fund local and global missions. Thanks to generous gifts we are able to employ church staff (local missionaries) who organize and help lead our mission right here at home.

Your commitments to give in 2012 make it possible, for example, for us to grow the Early Childhood Ministries from a part-time to a full-time position beginning January 1. This means a beefed up Sunday morning ministry for the very youngest among us and the addition of a third day of Children's Day Out during the week.

We are searching for a part-time experienced pastor to help us with pastoral care needs. We plan to create a new 5-6<sup>th</sup> grade ministry and hire a part-time person to lead it. Our nursery and CDO staff continues to grow to support the growing ministries of St. Mark's. Thank you for all your financial gifts to the general budget; they form the financial backbone of St. Mark's.

## You All Are Wonderful!

The staff at St. Mark's would like to thank you for the generous gift (cash) at Christmas time this year! We will enjoy spending it!

Keith, Alicia, Josh, Nick, Becky, Sharon, Christy, Brian, Roger, Phillip, Alan, and Darlene

## Faith Promise Mission Update

To be more effective in missions we are focusing our efforts. By focusing we will be able to go deeper into the needs of those we help and be able to build relationships with them. Think: Focus, Deeper, Relational and Effective.

Our missions will focus on three destinations. The first has been determined. We will partner in mission with the United Methodist Boys' Ranch near Gore, Oklahoma. The Boys' Ranch helps boys get on the road to wholeness and a better future. Watch for announcements of upcoming mission trips.

Two other destinations are being considered; Lydia Patterson institute at El Paso, Texas, and inner city missions at Mexico City, Mexico. We will be sending exploratory teams to these mission locations within the next few months. If you would like to be a part of these teams, please contact either Becky Roman or Pastor Keith Cressman.

At times a church can lose its mission momentum. Some think momentum is lost when we lose close contact with the people and purpose of the 'target' missions. By partnering with only three missions, we will target our efforts and, thus, be more able to develop relationships as we send mission team upon mission team. The hoped for result is a deeper impact on both our lives and those we serve.

## Share the Gospel: Grow the Church

An audacious goal? To grow worship attendance by 50%, to 500 people, by 2014.

What is the purpose? To involve everyone who is a part of St. Mark's in sharing the Gospel and inviting others to come to church.

What is the bottom line? Obey Jesus who said to make disciples of all people.

What to do: 1. Pray that every day you will share Christ in some way with another person, 2. Invite others to come, and 3. Learn more about how to share your faith (attend *Just Walk Across the Room* beginning February 1, see related article in this newsletter).

## Meals, Movie and Music

**Second Winders will meet Thursday, February 9, for a covered dish meal at noon.** After the meal we will watch a movie, to be announced later.

There is a sign-up sheet on the office ledge for those who would like to go to the Valentine Cabaret at Oklahoma Christian University on Saturday, February 11. **We will leave St. Mark's at 4:55. A London Broil steak dinner (ending with chocolate or raspberry cheesecake dessert) will be served at 6 p.m. followed by music from recent Broadway shows at 7 p.m. Cost for the Cabaret is \$19**, transportation from the church is an additional \$2. Tickets will be purchased January 30. Please prepay Dot Lyon.

## It's a Gusher!

What happens when you come to an impossible conclusion through prayer?

For Christmas Eve, we wanted to do something to make a great difference in others' lives, something bigger than we have ever done before, something that would press us beyond our capabilities. Someone suggested we help provide fresh water wells in Africa. Fresh water means better health, educational opportunities, and increased economic productivity. By partnering with World Vision International we can be confident the Gospel will be shared while the wells are drilled.

Our "usual" Christmas Eve offering ranges between \$500 and \$900. We set a goal of \$5200. That would be enough to drill two wells and help hundreds of people hear the Gospel and live better. The goal was 5 to 10 times our "normal" Christmas Eve offering!

We believe God is in this venture. Would we reach the goal?

Late Christmas Eve, the offering is counted. The total: \$21,000 +.

More than eight wells will be drilled. Not just *hundreds* will hear and be helped, but *thousands*!

God works through generous people, and we can do all things through him who gives us strength. Philippians 4:13. Nothing is impossible with God.



### IT'S A BOY!

Name: **Bravery Saint Clemenceau**

Born: January 11, 2012

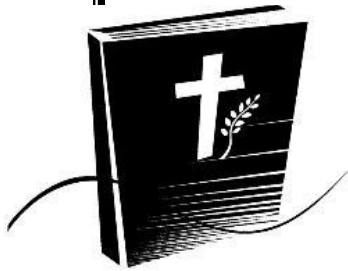
Weight: 4 lbs. 13 ozs.

Height: 19 ½ ins.

Parents: Patrick and Shelli  
Clemenceau

Sisters: Magdalene and Valo

CONGRATULATIONS!



## BIBLE and Bible Studies

Along with on-going studies in each Sunday school class, you are invited to be a part of these Bible and book studies: *(Please sign-up for the studies by either calling the church office, 789-9033, or by using the sign-up sheets on the counter outside the office.)*

***Just Walk Across the Room.*** This is a good study to gain an understanding of the biblical basis for evangelism. Many practical, natural ways and methods to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ are explained and demonstrated.

Begins Wednesday, February 1 at 6:00. Room 18. Meets four times. Cost for materials: \$9. Facilitator: Pastor Keith.

***Resolving Everyday Conflict.*** This study describes underlying causes of conflict in relationships and presents biblical ways to work toward resolution of the conflict and reconciliation with other people.

The meeting times for Class 1 will be determined at the informational meeting to be held Sunday, January 29, 10:30-11:00 in the library. The 8 topics covered in this class are: The root cause of conflict, When to overlook an offense, What makes a good apology, What forgiveness really means, and How to deal with difficult people. Make plans to join us for this study that teaches what the Bible says about conflict and relationships. Cost for materials: \$10.

Class 1 – Facilitator: Laura Brueggen.

Class 2 – Resolving Everyday Conflict DVD series will be offered by the Faithbuilder's Sunday School Class beginning Feb. 12. Please contact Beverly Ray if you are interested in attending this study.

***Book Studies During Lent.*** Here is a listing of the Lenten Groups that begin the week of February 19: Sundays, 5:15 to 6:45 p.m., meets at 7405 NW 107. Gary and Letha Davis and Earl and Evelyn Moore will co-lead this study. This group will study *24 Hours that Changed the World* DVD series by Adam Hamilton. Several books are available to supplement this study, both are optional. The book is \$11.50, and the devotional guide is \$8.00.

Mondays, 2 to 3:30 p.m., meets at the church. The leader of this group is Joey Pedigo, and they will study *A Call to Live* by World Vision. Topics covered in this study are *A Call to Live Simply*, *A Call to Live Humbly*, *A Call to Live Generously*, *A Call to Live Compassionately*, *A Call to Live Creatively*, *A Call to Live Fully*.

Wednesdays, 6:30 to 8 p.m., meets at the church. The leaders of this group are Brian and Beverly Ray. This group will also study *24 Hours that Changed the World* DVD series by Adam Hamilton. Child care is available for this study.

Thursdays beginning February 23, 7 to 9 p.m., in the choir room. The leader of this group is Esther Withers, and they will study *Prayer, An Adventure with God*. Cost of the study guide is \$8.00.

Sign-up for groups will begin January 29.

***Bible Study for Those Who Want to Know More.*** This ongoing study is facilitated by Pastor Keith. Topics vary with the suggestions, questions, and issues brought up by those who attend. Meets at 2:00 on the first and third Wednesdays of each month. Free. Bring your Bible.

Sign-up sheets for these studies are located on the counter outside the church office. One other study will be starting the week of February 19. This Lenten study will be announced soon.

Monthly Calendar appeared on this page in the mail out newsletter. There is a monthly calendar on the website.

### Calendar of Week

#### Thursday, February 2

9:30 am – Children’s Day Out

10:00 am – Staff Meeting

5:30 pm – TOPS

6:00 pm – Stephen Cont. Ed.,  
Supervision and Training

6:30 pm – ChildSHARE

6:30 pm – Finance Meeting

7:00 pm – Home Study

#### Friday, February 3

OPEN

#### Saturday, February 4

OPEN

#### Sunday, February 5,

##### Scout Sunday

8:00 am – Worship

9:30 am – Sunday School

9:30 am – Worship

9:30 am – Children Adventure

11:00 am – Discipleship Class

11:00 am – Worship

5:00 pm – Youth Super Bowl  
Parties

5:00 pm – Home Bible Study

#### Monday, February 6

8:30 am – BABES Exercise

9:30 am – Children’s Day Out

1:00 pm – Bridge

2:00 pm – Bible Study

5:00 pm – BABES Exercise

6:30 pm – Cub Scouts

7:30 pm – Boy Scouts

7:30 pm – Home Bible Study

#### Tuesday, February 7

9:30 am – Children’s Day Out

#### Wednesday, February 8

6:30 am – Men’s Ministry

8:00 am – Christian Fellowship  
Homeschool Co-op

6:00 pm – Worship Team

6:00 pm – Just Walk Across the  
Room Study Begins

6:15 pm – Stretch & Strength

6:30 pm – Prayer Time

6:30 pm – Bible Blast

6:30 pm – Youth

7:00 pm – Choir Practice



Members who need healing and comfort

Greg Gerardy, Beverly Clark, Kay Orr, Kieth Ballard, Vic Gammill, Don Nobles, Genie Funk, Kelsey Evans, Chris Brehm, Bernard McGowan
Our Missionaries
The Awads - Israel/Palestine
The Banales - Mexico
The Bredesens - Uganda
The Burdicks - Philippines
The Deweys - Ukraine
The Eisenbergs - Paraguay
The Kalangwas - Tanzania
Gigi Kirschenbaums - Military Ministry
The Mortons - Central Asia
The Phillips - Slovakia
The Zimmermans - Bolivia
Community and Nation
Salvation for the lost.
The Governor, The President, Senate, House of Representatives and Judges
Grief
Mary Hickman died January 1.

February Birthdays!

Everyone have a great day on your special day! Happy Birthday to Ryan Agyemang, Todd Attalla, Mike Benton, Darell Brehm, Isaac Collins, Walter Correia, Jimmy Darden, Jan Greve, Jacob Grisham, Juanita Hancock, Beth Harned, Bill Harned, Joy Hicks, Brooke Jenkins, Kenneth Ketchersid, Mildred Ketchersid, Judy Knight, Garrett Mackey, Jeff Montesano, Steve Mullins, Fran Nobles, Ed Orr, Danny Payne, Greg Pinkerton, Kelsey Pope, Lori Shenold, Nikala Shenold, Lance Skinner, Irene Stafford, Betty Underwood.

Facts and Figures

2012 Budget.....Not Yet Set
Rec'd toward Operating
1/23/12.....\$9,333.40
Year to Date
Rec'd toward Operating
.....\$46,635.10
Expenditures 1/27/12
.....\$30,948.31

Sunday, January 29

Sunday School ..... 319
Worship ..... 329

Thank You

We would like to thank everyone at St. Mark's who has lifted us up in prayer, sent cards, made food, sent flowers and/or attended Mary's funeral. You are giving us strength to get through this very difficult time.
Clark, Kristina, Kyle, Dwayne and Darlene Hickman



Ash Wednesday Service February 22, 6:30 p.m.



8140 N. W. 36, Bethany, OK 73008
405-789-9033

St. Mark's Staff
Keith Cressman, Pastor
Alicia Schneider, Children's Minister
Josh Coats, Youth Minister
Nick Bremmer, Youth Intern
Becky Roman, Music Director & Administrator
Sharon Hunt, Early Childhood Ministries Director
Christy Kiespert, 8:00 Keyboardist
Brian LaPat, 9:30 Leader of Worship
Roger Pautsch, 11:00 Organist
Phillip Bond, Financial Secretary
Alan & Jerri Ortiz, Custodians
Darlene Hickman, Church Secretary

Office Hours are from 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m., M-Th
Closed noon until 1 p.m. for lunch.

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