



GRAHAM STREET

CHURCH OF CHRIST

Rooted - Growing - Reaching

May 31, 2020 Sunday

Sunday Morning Worship Services

at the Building 9:00 & 10:45

Re-Opening the Building So Far

I have been asked by several ministers in town how I felt things went for Graham Street church in re-opening our building for Sunday morning worship. Some of the Graham Street church family have asked this, as well. So, I thought I would take a moment and try to answer that question for I have found it hard to answer clearly in the moment due to a mixture of emotions.

First, it is great to see each other Sunday morning, but of course, there are several that we still miss. So mixed emotions there. I know many of you feel the same way. There is also some who feel some anxiousness, and I want us to do everything we can to make you more comfortable and let you and anyone else that is struggling with the question if it is healthy for you to be back in a crowd, that it is okay to continue to worship from home until you feel it is safe for you and your family. And let me say honestly that as much joy as it gives me for us to be together again, I don't like to hear, "It is great to worship again," or "It is great to have church again." I understand what you mean, but there is that part of me that hopes we all understand that we were still the church worshipping while we were apart worshipping in our homes and serving in our community!

Second, it is hard to evaluate how we are doing based on two Sundays, one being the first time back doing our best to follow unfamiliar protocols, and the second time back was Memorial weekend. Knowing that for now we will not all be back, and we will be spread out and in two services, and not yet able to have our Sunday morning fellowship over donuts and coffee, or have our Sunday morning Bible classes or children's ministry programs; it went well for what we were able to do at this time. We look forward to when we can fully re-open. It has been disappointing that we were not able to have the stronger broadcast capabilities in place to livestream our worship services into the homes of those not able to attend yet and into overflow areas for those unable to be seated in the auditorium. It is our hope that this will be up and running soon, along with our new roof finished with the air conditioning replaced. So again, mixed emotions, excitement to be with my church family preaching God's Word, but a sense that we want to do so much more.

Third, and who is counting anyway, this is FIRST, I feel a renewed sense of Lord's presence among us. That this supersedes logistics, awkwardness, anxiety, technology, masks and gloves, and disinfectants. A sense that we are determined to NOT take Him, or His Church, or worship of Him, or the fellowship of His people for granted ever again. That He is bigger than this virus, He is bigger than our nation, He is bigger than our economy, and we want the world to know that He is Bigger! And that is our mission, and we are excited to get back together to celebrate what we have in Him! And with that sense that "God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble" (Ps. 46:1); my answer to the question is - - "IT WAS GREAT!"

David Bearden



➤ OPPORTUNITIES TO BE TOGETHER IN STUDY AND PRAYER

Sunday Morning Worship: 9:00 or 10:45 a.m. at the building.

Audio with Slides Recording on website (<https://grahamstreetchurch.com/sermons>)

Video Recording on Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/grahamstreetchurch/>)

Graham Street Grill: (Live Question & Answer Bible Study and Church Information 7:00 pm on Monday)

<https://www.facebook.com/grahamstreetchurch/>

Ladies Class 7:00pm Wednesday Evening: Led by Sherri Caraway on Zoom. A new link is posted weekly on the private Facebook Group or you can call the office for the link:

[Graham St C of C Womens Ministry. H.U.G.S. Hearts United in God's Service](#)

"First Things First Bible Study" Video for Small Groups and Bible Classes is on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/grahamstreetchurch/>

Study materials on website: <https://www.grahamstreetchurch.com/house-church>

Chronological Bible Reading: <https://www.biblestudytools.com/bible-reading-plan/chronological.html>

➤ NEWS/UPCOMING EVENTS

Rejoicing in some recent baptisms! Joel Kitchens recently baptized **Cody Cronk** - you can send Cody notes of encouragement at: 1794 N. Graham Street. There were also baptisms from the Foster's Home: Both **Rosie & Adrian** were baptized. You can send notes of encouragement to them in care of Foster's Home for Children, 1779 N. Graham St. Stephenville, TX 76401. Call (254) 968-2143 for information.

➤ **Building Improvement:** We are in a new phase of our **building improvement** – with a new roof over the office area and some new air conditioners! The building upgrades continue, even though we have been away. Your continued support for the Building Fund is greatly appreciated.

➤ CONGRATULATIONS HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES

Colton Bradberry Ethan Davis Carson Elston Avery Forehand
Callan Gibbons Caroline Gilley Guthri Jenschke Evan McLeroy

➤ CONTRIBUTION STATUS—

Thank you for your continued financial support of Graham Street! As of Sunday, May 24th, the year-to-date contribution total is **\$204,342** and the year-to-date budget is **\$243,600** (*YTD contribution is 83.88% of budget*). We are working to revise the budget to make adjustments for added expenses & remove expense planning for activities that have been cancelled. The Elders



UPCOMING SHOWERS

Baby Shower honoring **Janell Bierman** on **Saturday, June 6th** . **This will be a drive-by baby shower.** Meet at the Family Center Parking lot at 9:20 a.m. to decorate cars and drive out together to Janell's home (1714 CR 512, Stephenville, TX 76401) If you are able , bring a lawn chair and after the parade, we will circle back to the house, park and sit out in the lawn to watch Janell open her gifts. She is registered at Target, Walmart, 4 Kids Only and Buy Buy Baby. (A comprehensive list is also available on Babylist). **Contact Whitney Holt** with questions.

Bridal Shower honoring **Kelcee Jones**, bride elect of Andrew Heflin, daughter of **Troy & Pam Jones**, granddaughter of **Don & Patty Jones**. Although we cannot celebrate in person, we can still show our love and shower the Bride-To-Be! Please send cards, gift cards and gifts to: 972 Meadowlark Lane, Stephenville, Texas 76401. Kelcee and Andrew are registered at Target, Bed, Bath & Beyond and Ace The HomePlace.

Bridal Shower honoring **Mrs. Chelsi (Vineyard) Henzler** will be Sunday, June 7, 2020. It is a Come & Go shower, from 2:00 to 3:30 to be held at the home of Lacy Gilley (1140 Walking Horse Drive, Stephenville, TX 76401) Kindly RSVP to 254-592-9730. Chelsi is registered at Bed, Bath & Beyond, The Home Place, Amazon, and Target .

MISSIONS UPDATE

Zimbabwe Hunger Relief update from the Mission Committee:

Graham Street has been involved in mission work in Zimbabwe for over 40 years. The country's economy has been in shambles for several years. Inflation is soaring, prices increase almost daily and there are shortages of everything from electricity to food. On top of all this, 2020 started with crop-eating locust and a drought. To further add to their plight, COVID 19 now has the country locked down, with people unable to work. The mission committee is soliciting donations for purchasing food supplies to be distributed in areas where our ministry partners are working. Please make checks payable to Graham Street and reference Zimbabwe Hunger Relief. Pray for Zimbabwe.

Zimbabwe Hunger Relief Fund Total = \$1,346



Prayer Requests

Ronnie Moring; Ginger Ham; Doug Gasset, Ronnie Oliver, Larry Knowles, Steve Ham, Denise Powell, Kenneth Gaines, Paula Busby, Paula Oliver, Micaela Moore, Karen Bills, Gloria Scott, Cynthia Price, Jody Caudle, Mike DeMott, Tabitha McClellan, James Young, Jordan Harper, son-in-law of Mark and Leah Wilson, Kimberly Richardson O'Dea