



GRAHAM STREET

CHURCH OF CHRIST

Rooted - Growing - Reaching

June 21, 2020 Sunday

**Sunday Morning Worship Services at the Building
9:00 & 10:45**

Starting Back to Bible Classes

First Some Questions to Consider about starting back with Classes:

When do we start back based on COVID-19? (This deals with regulations, number of cases, attitudes of members about attending, impact in the community, etc. Currently the number of cases continues to rise and we need to exercise caution.)

1. When do we start back based on the state of the roofing, air conditioning, and internet? (It is our hope that all these issues will be resolved by mid-July.)
2. When do we start back based on the work to be done on the interior of the building? (As we are nearing the end of phase 2, the roof and A/C over the office wing of the building, and we will soon begin the next phase on the interior of the building, which will necessitate flexibility in where we are, and what we do and at what times.)
3. When we start back with classes, do we want to start back on Sunday mornings, or consider starting back on Wednesday and Sunday nights first? (As long as need to do social distancing, we will need to do 2 Sunday morning worship services, which complicates doing Bible Classes on Sunday morning, especially with the sanitizing needs and the repairs on the building.)

Based on these considerations the Elders have decided to set Wednesday night, August 5, as our target date to carefully start back with our Bible Classes on Wednesday nights only, with the realization that this may have to be adjusted based on the questions above. Here is what we plan to do at this point, with more details to come.

1. Classes will begin at their usual time, 6:30 p.m. We will **not** have a meal before classes at this time. We will start August 5 with a group meeting in the main auditorium to sing, pray, and introduce how the classes will be conducted. The Bible Classes will begin August 12.
2. We will have one general Adult Bible Class in the Family Center. Mike Dacus will be teaching 1 & 2 Peter. Time for singing and prayer will also be a part of this class. (The class space will be limited to the main area with the partitions closed off and the kitchen closed due to the use of the Family Center for Basic Needs and other activities during the week.)
3. We will have a "Family-Style Children's Program" on Wednesday nights designed for school age children through pre-teens upstairs in the main building. Parents and children will be together in staff and volunteer led small and large group Bible Classes, Application Exercises, and Worship. The class will include preschoolers in the large group activities, but they will have their own breakout sessions. We will need lots of help, and there are lots of details to be figured out! August 12 is the first day back to school for Stephenville ISD, Pre-K through 8th Grade, and we will plan to make this a special night for school families.
4. The Youth Group will be with Wes on Wednesday nights for their Bible Class, but they will also be asked to help with presenting lessons to the younger children from time to time.
5. We will adjust this approach and add other classes and activities as we are able to move back into safely and effectively offering Sunday morning classes and provide more opportunities on Wednesday & Sunday nights.



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

Night of 100 Casseroles will be Thursday, June 25 (This Next Thursday!) The one held on May 28th fed 90 families and all the casseroles were given out in less than an hour & a half. Please get with Le Jones or Deborah Swanson if you have any questions or wish to help with the next one.

Contribution 06/14 **\$8,224** YTD Contribution **\$236,315** YTD Budget **\$278,400**
Zimbabwe Hunger Relief Fund Total = \$12,704 (+\$3,000 from the mission committee)
Building Fund \$260,743

BASIC NEEDS RE-OPENING PLANS

Basic Needs has now returned to their usual location. Food is being distributed at the Basic Needs Store using a 6ft distancing method. This method of food distribution will continue until the 6ft separation restraints are lifted. Only 1 person per family will be allowed in the pantry (with the exception of handicapped individuals needing assistance). However, **clothing will not be distributed at the Store**, our clients will be able to get needed clothing and household items at the Family Center after receiving a ticket to do so from the store beginning July 2. **The Basic Needs Workroom has reopened. Food distribution from the Store begins June 18; and Clothing distribution from the Family Center begins July 2.** This method of distribution will continue until we no longer need to practice social distancing. **BASIC NEEDS NEEDS VOLUNTEERS!** contact Deborah Swanson if you have any questions at 254-977-3990.



Charles Williams; Ronnie Moring; Doug Gassett, Jerry Lindley; Ronnie Oliver, Larry Knowles, 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; Kenneth Gaines



➤ **Texans for Christ College Ministry Announcement:** College students can stay up to date with what our college ministry has going on through our website <https://texansforchrist.org>

➤ **Youth Group Announcement:** Young people, 7th –12th grade can stay up to date with what our Youth Group has going on through our website <https://www.grahamstreetyouth.org>

➤ **Update regarding the Mutare School of Preaching from the Mission Committee**

Graham Street Church of Christ provided Life Skills Sponsorship, through our link person, Hughbert Collier. GSCofC has sponsored eight preacher students to undertake life-skills courses at Mutare Polytechnic College for a year (2020). This opportunity is given to the second year class before they go for one year internship to try it out. We are so excited and appreciate this annual sponsorship for our students. This will add value to our graduate students and also attract prospective students to join MSOP. We really thank the saints at Graham Street for blessing our students in such a sustainable manner. **N. Marunga, Director**

➤ **Update regarding the Prison Ministry from the Mission Committee**

We originally mailed 400 Bibles beginning in November of 2018. In 2019 we received 600 more Bibles and they have all been sent out, making 1000 World Bible School Bibles mailed to jails in prisons mainly in Texas and Arkansas. We recently received 1,000 more Bibles and approximately 20 to 30 Bibles are mailed out each week.

Patty Jones has 158 prisoners she is corresponding with in Arkansas . Jan Alderfer has approximately 100 prisoners she is working with and there are others involved including Sherrie Barton, Nadine Rose, Krysten Russell, Ray & Barbara Sissom, Jon & Lois Henson, Patti Musgrave, Kaitlyn Brewer, David Bearden, plus others that are just getting started. These volunteers are sending New Life Behavior lessons, grading the returned lessons, and sending certificates of completion when a course has been completed. Each New Life Behavior Course has 13 lessons that needs to be completed by the student and returned for grading. There are 13 NLB Courses.

Patty has had 8 prisoners released that received certificates of completion and Patty has recorded 40 courses completed by her students. Jan has had similar results, and the other church members sending lessons have a very good retention and completion rate as well.

A sample letter received recently from a prisoner completing his 3rd NLB course:

Dear Mrs. Jones,

...I want to thank you for letting me participate in these lessons. I have really enjoyed doing them. I would really love to keep doing more. I can't wait to get out and start sharing God with my family. Eventually, I would like to be able to share my story with others that have, or are going through, the life I have gone through. Maybe help kids by showing them if I can change, they can, too...God bless you for everything you are doing for all of locked up. It means a lot to me that you take time to do this for us.

— —

This Ministry is growing by leaps and bounds. We get an amazing amount of feedback with requests by those who are participating in the courses. They are sending anywhere from one to a dozen names which are included on their answer sheets, or on little pieces of paper included with the lessons.

Please express our appreciation for all of the financial support that makes this Ministry possible. We are impacting lives in ways we could never have thought or imagined. **Jan Alderfer**

For additional letters and testimonies see the *New Life Behavior Testimonies under Prison Ministry on the Graham Street Website* <https://grahamstreetchurch.com/prison-ministry>