



GRAHAM STREET

CHURCH OF CHRIST

Rooted - Growing - Reaching

July 12, 2020 Sunday

Bulletin Announcements and Updates

Our 2020 Vision

As we started the new year of 2020, I wore a blue rubber band wrist bracelet with white letters that read on one side, "20/20 VISION" and on the other, "Jeremiah 29:7." Jeremiah 29:7 reads, "Also, seek the peace and prosperity of the city to which I have carried you into exile. Pray to the LORD for it, because if it prospers, you too will prosper." The band is over six years old and goes back to the days when we were working on the 2020 Vision and 5-year-mission plan for the University Church of Christ in Tuscaloosa, but I repurposed it for Graham Street Church of Christ as a reminder to pray daily for our 2020 Vision.

Well before Vicki and I moved to Stephenville, we were working toward the year of 2020. I was impressed with the work that IMP, with Grady King, John Mullican and Ronnie White, had done in the interim during the preacher search and the Elders commitment to a new vision for the Graham Street church. We took aggressive steps to plot a missional course for the church starting with reviewing our foundational beliefs using an overview of the Bible with "THE STORY" and then the "BELIEVE" series, then we began a study of the Church's Mission in a study of Luke and Acts. The year 2020 was going to be the culmination of this preliminary work coming together in a clear 2020 Vision for this church on mission in our community and around the world. And I think God has been blessing us in this pursuit with intensity and clarification in our work with Celebrate Recovery, the Prison Ministry and New Life Behavior studies, Basic Needs and connected ministries, and our mission work in Zimbabwe. But there are things that have happened that may seem to have interfered with our progress. For example, the devastating spiritual blow to our youth ministry, the heart breaking loss of Sandy, our Director of Basic Needs, Jacob and Savanna moving away, and now the COVID-19 pandemic. And yet, even in these difficult blows, God is still refining and clarifying the 2020 Vision of this church and lifting our eyes to what should be ahead for us.

Which brings me back to the 20/20 bracelet, which I stopped wearing. From a practical standpoint, I stopped wearing it because of the sanitizing protocols for COVID-19, but also because through COVID-19 I was reminded that God was not using the year 2020 to help us develop our vision for our church, but forcing us to see HIS VISION for HIS CHURCH. It may not be a clear 20/20 Vision yet, but with this situation He is certainly bringing some clarity.

We have been made to realize that things can change in a moment and there will be a greater need than recognized before in which the Church can step in to meet. Confusion, division, distrust and anger can quickly sweep over our land and the Church can be an instrument of peace. We recognize that though the mission of the Church has not changed, some of our methods of the past will not work effectively in the current climate and we must adapt. That some things interrupted may look different when they start back, and some things will need a fresh start, and some things may need to be replaced with better methods. We have been brought to a greater awareness that we are called to holistic ministry of the physical, mental and spiritual needs of those around us to help the world to realize the holistic salvation of the Savior of a new Kingdom, now, and forever. 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/>)

Family Resources: <https://www.grahamstreetchurch.com/house-church>

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 - Starts again this Monday, 7/13/2020) <https://www.facebook.com/grahamstreetchurch/>

GPS participants —Be on the lookout for a survey coming your way!

“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>

▶ **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>

▶ NEWS/UPCOMING EVENTS

Men’s Prayer Breakfast— Saturday, July 11, 2020, 8:00 a.m. at the Tri-C (Corner of Ollie & Tarleton)



Charles Williams; Ronnie Moring; Doug Gassett (who is home now); Jerry Lindley; Ronnie Oliver, Larry Knowles, Denise Powell, Kenneth Gaines, Paula Busby, Paula Oliver, Micaela Moore, Karen Bills, Cynthia Price, Jody Caudle, Mike DeMott, Tabitha McClellan, James Young, Kimberly Richardson O’Dea; Kenneth Gaines; Pam Clayton, who lost her brother, Jack Kraft.

Sarah Schmitt will soon undergo treatment for a very aggressive cancer (for more details see her Facebook Fundraiser page: **Surgery and Radiation, Bills, Food, Travel to Parkland Oncology** <https://www.facebook.com/donate/721568288627658/721583781959442/> .) We want to help through Basic Needs. Sarah began her relationship with the Graham Street Church family a few years when she and her family were helped by Sandy and Basic Needs. From there, Sarah began to serve in Basic Needs, Celebrate Recovery, Redeemer’s Reach, and Diamonds in the Rough. She needs our support and encouragement, prayers, and money. You can give to help her through Basic Needs.



From **Terry & Carl Smith**:

Well my friends, lots of news from the Smiths. We have made a decision to make some big changes! First, Carl retired from teaching at the end of May. He is doing well and enjoying this new path. We put our house up for sale a couple weeks ago and we have accepted an offer and we close on Aug 7th. Then we plan to move in with my sister, Sherry David Osburn, in Cleburne on family land. We will start building on a lot in Lorena, south of Waco, mid- August. I have cut back to 3 days a week during the transition and will be driving back and forth from Cleburne to work Mon-Wed at THS Wound Care. Our son Steven is going to let me stay at his house 2 nights a week to decrease travel! Why the change? We do have a sweet 2 year old granddaughter and some precious foster babies that we would like to be close enough to provide Brad and Marrissa more help. God has gone before us in every decision. We are sure He has plans for us there. We have so many friends and wonderful memories from our 25 years in Stephenville. We hope to connect with many of you again before we move! And we will do our best to hold back the tears! Terry

Gabe & Juanette Davis, parents of Terry Smith, will also be moving. They are relocating to Cleburne.

Let's continue to pray for both families. If you want to send cards letting them know they will be loved & missed:

Carl & Terry Smith, 117 Flat Foot Lane, Stephenville, TX 76401

Gabe & Juanette Davis, 1135 Walking Horse Drive, Stephenville, TX 76401

➡ Promise Keepers Virtual Event — July 31 & August 1

Sign up to attend: <https://promisekeepers.brushfire.com/virtual-2020/466931>

➡ Giving Update:

Contribution 06/28/2020 \$11,774 YTD Contribution \$262,398 YTD Budget \$313,200

Zimbabwe Hunger Relief Fund Total = \$14,307 (+\$3,000 from the mission committee)

Building Fund \$263,401 (this is the total amount given since start of Phase 2— the funds given to date have been used for the new roof and new A/C units.)