



# GRAHAM STREET CHURCH OF CHRIST

**Rooted - Growing - Reaching**

**August 02, 2020 Sunday**

**Bulletin Announcements and Updates—**

**What About Bible Classes?**

## Growing Stronger

Since we started dealing with COVID-19, I have been preaching a series of lessons on “The Strength of the Lord.” We have been focusing on turning to the Lord’s Strength for our strength during these trying times. It is in the strength of the Lord that we have the courage and hope to deal with anxiety and go forward. While I plan on dealing with the same need and theme for the rest of the summer, I am going to make a turn in emphasis. Up to this point we have studied the Lord’s Strength, now I want to emphasize our using the Lord’s Strength to Grow Our Strength. It is not enough to know that we must rely on the Lord’s Strength, we must take steps to grow our own strength as we activate the Lord’s strength in our strength. We will start with a simple statement that we are all familiar with from **1 Corinthians 13:13** “And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.” We need to grow stronger in faith, hope and love through the activation of God’s strength in our lives. In the coming weeks, we will look at some practical things we can do to grow stronger in these and in our prayer life through the Holy Spirit.

Speaking of strong, Vicki and I are celebrating our anniversary this weekend. Sunday, August 2, we have been married 46 years. Those who know her, know Vicki is a strong woman. I know, I can almost hear you saying, “She would have to be to be married to you for 46 years!” She is! She has strong faith that has been tested by trying times in her life. She trusts God and believes deeply in prayer. When she says she is going to pray for someone, she is not just saying kind words. Her love for others is strong. She keeps loving even when her love is not respected, disregarded or abused. She loves those who love her back, but she loves those who have been so hurt that they have not learned how to love, and she shows them how to love by her example. She is strong because of her wisdom, her skill, her service, and her giving. She models Christ daily and her smile tells the people around her that she is strong enough to find joy in the good times and in the bad. She has the strength of hope that comes from trusting God with the sure outcome of our victory over the evil one and death. God has blessed me with a wife of strength, and through the strength of our love we have learned together practical lessons from applying God’s strength in our marriage. Thank you, God; and thank you, Vicki.

**Bible Class Start Up:** We plan to start Bible Classes at the building Sunday night, September 13 at 5:00. We will have 3 Bible Classes, the Adult Bible Class in the Auditorium, the Teens class in Youth Ministry area, and a “Family Bible Class” in the Family Center. Hughbert Collier will be leading the Adult Bible Class in the auditorium where health protocols are in place and completing the class he started in Acts. When Hughbert finishes Acts, Mike Dacus will start teaching 1 & 2 Peter

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## ➤ 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 back up August 10th) <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

**Congratulations!!!! Former members:** Kenneth & Betty Lesley celebrated their 70th Wedding Anniversary this month.

**Congratulations!!!!** Jeffrey and Janell Bierman welcomed **Jeremy Jay Bierman** into the world 7/27/2020 . He weighed 8lbs 5oz. and measured 21.5 in. Momma and baby are doing great!!



Charles Williams, Ronnie Moring, Doug Gasset, Denise Powell, Kenneth Gaines, Paula Busby, Paula Oliver, Micaela Moore, Cynthia Price, Jody Caudle, Mike DeMott, Tabitha McClellan, James Young, Kimberly Richardson O’Dea; Kenneth Gaines; Patty Jones; Debbie Kitchens, the family of John Allen, husband of Amy Aldridge Allen & son of Charles and Hazel Allen, all former members at Graham St. John passed on Friday 24th of July and services were held last Monday.

Sarah Schmitt had her surgery this past week and it appears to have been successful (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.



### ➤ Giving Update:

**Contribution** 07/19/2020 \$9,744 YTD Contribution \$294,984 Budget 11,600 YTD Budget \$348,000  
**Zimbabwe Hunger Relief Fund Total** = \$14,307 (+\$3,000 from the mission committee)

**Building Fund** \$264,401 (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.)

### What About Bible Classes? Continued.....

That's the plan. We pray and prepare, knowing that we must be flexible and learn as we go. Now, let me remind you of some of the things we are offering right now to help fill that desire for Bible Class until we start back.

Opportunities through small fellowship groups and Bible Study groups getting together have continued through this crisis. For example, some of our Connecting Groups (SFGs, Support Groups and Ministry Groups) have been meeting in homes. Young families with children have been meeting Sunday afternoons, Jerry Lindley has hosted worship services in her yard, and Le Jones has been leading a singing class on Wednesdays and teaching a class on Revelation on Thursday nights. Celebrate Recovery has continued to meet and it has been growing.

Taylor, Wes and I have been doing a Bible Study called "First Things First" and we have recorded it for the church to use as a small group or family Bible Study resource. It derives its name from our approach to the study. We began after Easter with a study of Acts 2, the beginning of the Church, drawing from the foundation of the early church presented in what was preached, believed, and acted upon. Then we have taken these principles each week into our Bible Study of a letter that Paul wrote to a church in the New Testament looking for these "First Things" of the Church. So far, we have applied this study to Romans, 1 & 2 Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, and Colossians. These lessons are available on our church website under House Church Resources.

On Monday nights at 7:00 LIVE on the Graham Street Church's Facebook is "The Grill." I think this was originally Wes' idea for a way to get the church to grill me with Bible Questions, but it has turned into a great way to get to know our church family. We have been interviewing members of our church family and letting them share with us their life story and faith journey. It has been awesome! We have had as our guests Taylor and Whitney Holt, Chad & Lacy Gilley, Steve and Ginger Ham, and Carl and Terry Smith. They have all had amazing stories. These are recorded and you can go back and watch them. I encourage you to join us each week and even send in your own questions as you watch. We are going to take a little time off and start back up August 10, so tune in.

Wes, Taylor and I have offered other online courses and resources in our bulletin and on our website through links dealing with our specific areas of ministry. We encourage you to use them to assist personal, group, and family Bible Study and encouragement. While these resources meet needs, we know you are eager to get back into a program for church-wide-in-person Bible Classes at the building where we can be together again! I hope the plan presented on the previous page excites the church and that everyone who can, will participate. Please remember we are trying to do it in a way that provides quality fellowship time with quality spiritual formation in a health safety environment. This is challenging when you hear the corona virus numbers and of those who have been touched by it in our church family, but we will in prayerfulness do our best with God's help.

David Bearden