



GRAHAM STREET

CHURCH OF CHRIST

Rooted - Growing - Reaching

November 8, 2020 Sunday

Bulletin Announcements and Updates—

“First of All, Pray!”

First, I wrote this article before the election. So please don't interpret and apply it to one candidate or the other. It is the reality of the Scripture, regardless of who is President.

And first again, because that is how the passage reads, “*proton panton*,” “*first of all*,” or “make it a priority over everything else,” PRAY! Here's the passage:

First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way. This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself as a ransom for all, which is the testimony given at the proper time. (1 Timothy 2:1-6)

Pray for all people with all kinds of prayer: supplications (*deesis* - entreaties to God seeking, asking, requesting for help), prayers (*proseuche* – reaching toward and addressing God in specific communication), intercession (*enteuzis* – supplication, intercession, interview, petition), thanksgivings (eucharistia – expressing gratitude). Paul is probably not trying to get us to focus on the distinctions between these words, but to emphasize the importance of praying all kinds of prayers in all kinds of circumstances for all people, everyone who is in need.

But especially for the king and all those in authority. Paul addressed the need for us to be in submission to the authority of the government where we live because God has in his wisdom and eternal plan placed them in those positions of authority (Romans 13). Jesus told Pilate that the only reason he was in a governing position to decide about Christ's life was that God had given him that authority (John 19:11). And we understand that the only time we should defy the authority of those who rule over us would be when we are commanded to do something in direct violation of God's command (Acts 4:18-20; 5:27-29). But we are commanded to pray for them regardless of what they command or how they rule! We are to prayer for those in authority no matter who they are, or whether we voted for them, or not.

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“First of All Pray” Continued

Why? Because God wants all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth, which is only found in the one true God and through the only one true Mediator between God and humanity, the Man Christ Jesus. So, how does praying for our rulers bring this about? God said we should pray for a climate conducive to bringing about this mission. An environment where quiet and peace will be sought, making the Gospel of peace with God and our fellow humans through Christ more desired. An atmosphere where our lives of godliness and reverence will be a witness of hope to a lost world that is incapable of developing a better life now and unprepared for eternity.

The truth is, only God knows the best way to bring this about, for sometimes it occurs in time of blessing when there is peace, and the economy is good. But there are times when the opposite is true. History shows that the times of suffering and hardship have highlighted the hope that is only found in God. God has used rulers that would seem to be moving in the opposite direction from His mission to show Himself to the world. He used a Pharaoh to show His people His great power and lead them to a land of promise and build a mighty nation. He used Nebuchadnezzar, the great king of Babylon, to introduce the future nations bringing the promise of an eternal kingdom with an eternal King. He used the Persian King Cyrus to bring His people back to Jerusalem, and King Herod to build a great temple there only for it to be destroyed as a testimony of a greater High Priest in an eternal heavenly temple. He had a young warrior king, Alexander the Great, spread the Greek language and culture to prepare for the spreading of the Gospel, the Good News of God’s Grace in the Savior Jesus.

So, we pray for whoever will rule in our nation that God will use them and us for the Lord’s mission in the world that will be accomplished through King Jesus and His people called by His name.

David Bearden

► **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:** If you haven't yet, please go to grahamstreetyouth.org to fill out the **Student Info Form**. This allows us to have current info for students & parents, as well as what activities students are involved in this school year. 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>

► **WiFi Password = john1335**



▶ OPPORTUNITIES TO BE TOGETHER IN STUDY AND PRAYER

Sunday Bible Class TONIGHT 5:00 p.m.!

Adult Class in the auditorium & Teen Class in Room 109.

The Family Bible Class will not meet tonight, Sunday, 11/08/2020, due to the need to move garage sale items into the Family Center, but all families are encouraged to work on recording their “Family Parables”. Contact Megan with questions

The Family Bible Class will be held again starting next week, Sunday, 11/15/2020. This class is for children through 6th Grade and their parents. We would like the 4th-6th Graders to be a part of the teaching process. If you parents would like to have your child (4th-6th Grader) be a “teacher’s aid” during FBC **please send David an email** (david@grahamstreetchurch.com) stating you give your approval for (child’s name) to be a teacher’s aid in FBC and that you will help them prepare for their role and help enforce COVID safety requirements while they are serving.

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 Q & A Bible Study and Church Member Interviews

Monday, November 9, 2020 7:00 p.m. <https://www.facebook.com/grahamstreetchurch/>

“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> or

<https://grahamstreetchurch.com/small-group-materials>

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

▶ UPCOMING DATES TO MARK ON YOUR CALENDAR

Sunday, 11/22/2020—Special Thanksgiving Services Sunday morning

Sunday, 11/22/2020—Sunday evening Community Thanksgiving Service to be held at First Baptist Church—sermon by Wayne Hancock, preacher at Cross Timbers Church of Christ

Sunday, 11/29/2020—Special Sunday Night Worship Service for everyone (5:30 p.m. in auditorium)

Sunday, 12/27/2020—No evening worship

Sunday, 01/03/2021—Special Sunday Night Worship Service for everyone (5:30 p.m. in auditorium)



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➡ **NEWS/UPCOMING EVENTS**

Basic Needs Garage Sale Update

We need help moving Basic Needs from storage **TODAY, Sunday, November 8th** after church to the Family Center and also will need help setting up the Family Center for the sale.

Also that following **Saturday, November 14th** we will need help moving what's left back to storage. If you can think of anyone that's willing to help please ask them. The more people helping the faster/easier it'll be on everyone.

➡ **Night of 100 Casseroles** will be on November 19th this month. On November 19th, drop off your casserole at the Family Center between 4:00 and 4:45. Casseroles are given away from 5:00 to 7:00 or until they are all given away! If you want to help, but cannot actively participate, donations are gladly welcome!

➡ **Giving Update**

Contribution 11/01/2020 \$9,311 Budget: \$9,700 YTD Contribution \$ 425,259 YTD Budget: \$ 426,800

Building Fund \$272,851 (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.)

Be sure to see the thank you cards from **Bobbie Pederson & the Gaines family** posted on the hall bulletin board.

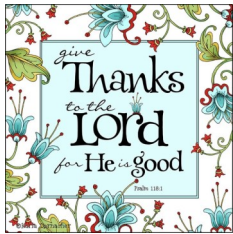
➡ **Basic Needs Totals for October:**

Seniors 121 Families Served 106 Individuals 368 New Families 9

Basic Needs is accepting donations again. (fyi) Large items for the garage sale in Nov will be accepted at the Family Center on Nov 10th and 11th. **The Holiday Garage Sale is THIS WEEK, Nov 12th-14th.** Other donations may be brought to Basic Needs on Monday and Tuesday (10:00 to 3:00). Thursday (after 1:00).



Charles Williams; Ronnie Moring; Doug Gassett; Denise Powell; Paula Busby; Paula Oliver, Micaela Moore, Cynthia Price, Jody Caudle who has continuing health problems, Mike DeMott, Tabitha McClellan, James Young; Patty Jones; Debbie Kitchens; Peggy Glover; Jerry Lindley; Pam Clayton; Brian Combs, houseparent at Foster's Home; Steve & Ginger Ham request prayers for their family; Bobby Tate; Brad & Shirley Fry (they both have been diagnosed with COVID-19—he has been preacher at Tolar Church of Christ); The family of former member, Helen Hampton, who passed away recently; The family of Kenneth Gaines who recently passed away. The Lively family, Cindy Lively's father, Web Jordan passed away last week. The Ramirez family Rai Ramirez's father, Rafael Ramirez, passed away this week.



Duracells Thanksgiving Gathering, Tuesday, November 10th, 5:30 p.m. at Bob & Darla Doty's home. Please bring a salad, side dish, or dessert.



Mark your calendars! The Community Christmas Dinner will be held on **Wednesday, December 16, 2020, from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m.** It will be an event similar to Nights of 100 Casseroles and be a drive-through for people wanting to have a Christmas dinner provided by Graham Street Church of Christ. More details will be provided as we get closer to the scheduled date.