



# GRAHAM STREET

## CHURCH OF CHRIST

**Rooted - Growing - Reaching**

**November 29, 2020 Sunday**

**Bulletin Announcements and Updates—**

**“Too Safe to Give Thanks”**

I watched a little boy in the toy department as his mommy went to the next aisle. He looked up as she pushed her cart away, but he could not pull himself away from the fascinating truck that transformed into a robot. He kept manipulating the toy while his mother disappeared around the corner. I was concerned that he would wander off in the wrong direction when he realized that he had been left behind, so I lingered sensing that my errand to the hardware section could wait. Sure enough, after a few minutes he raised his head to find his mom and she was not there, and instantly his face became distorted and tears welled up in his eyes. I took a step or two toward the aisle that I thought she had gone down and peeked around the corner and she was there. When I looked back at the boy he had started to run, in the wrong direction. Why do we have that instinct to run when we are scared, when we really need to slow down? Do I go after him, or his mom? I moved back to the aisle where I could see the mother and I said, “Is this your son over here?” It started her, and she was instantly afraid. She didn’t have to answer, I knew. I said, “He took off that way. I will go to the other side.” Mom took off calling for Tommy, and I went around the other corner. When I got to the other end of the aisle and looked back they had seen each other and they both ran to each other. She knelt down to pick him up and he jumped up into her arms. They were both crying. When mom turned around to go back to her cart, she saw me and said thank you. I smiled and walked away, and I have never seen them since. I don’t know their story. I don’t know if she is a single mom, or the little boy had brothers and sisters. And I don’t know if they will ever get separated in a store again. One thing I do know as a dad who has searched for a daughter in the toy department, the tears shed when they got back together were of joy and thankfulness.

I am sure the prodigal son and his father cried as they embraced upon his return home. In those tears was a thankful father glad to have his son home, and a thankful son that his father received him back. The sinful woman washed Jesus feet with her tears, dried them with her hair and anointed them with ointment. And Jesus, I am sure with tears in his eyes, told those who ridiculed her to leave her alone for she was showing great love preparing him for death. And as he spoke with acceptance and forgiveness, her tears turned to thankfulness. Maybe we are too safe and secure to give thanks. Maybe it takes a sense of fear and lostness to really feel deep thankfulness for the sense of safety and security. Maybe it takes a sense of not knowing where to turn for help and hopelessness to have a true appreciation for knowing you are home.

(Continued on Page 2)



“Too Safe to Give Thanks” Continued

Maybe it takes a sense of being unworthy of love to be overjoyed and grateful to know that you are forgiven and accepted in love.

This Thanksgiving take a moment to think of where you would be without your Father’s love and the saving grace of Jesus. Think of the fear and sense of loss you would feel. Think about being without a home and family. Think about being guilty beyond forgiveness. Then thank God for His loving mercy and thank Jesus for his willingness to carry all your shame to the cross. Say, “Thank you,” and mean it. And if tears of joy and thankfulness come to your eyes, that’s okay!

David Bearden

### ▶ OPPORTUNITIES TO BE TOGETHER IN STUDY AND PRAYER

**Special Service TONIGHT 5:00 p.m.!** There will be a Worship Service & Prayer Time—please come and bring your families.

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>

“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, 11/29/2020—TONIGHT! Special Sunday Night Worship Service for everyone (5:00 p.m. in auditorium)

Sunday, 12/27/2020—No evening worship

Sunday, 01/03/2021—Special Sunday Night Worship Service for everyone (5:00 p.m. in auditorium)

### ▶ Giving Update

**Contribution** 11/22/2020 \$5,570 Budget: \$9,700 YTD Contribution \$ 451,375 YTD Budget: \$455,900

**Building Fund** \$274,756 (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.)



## NEWS/UPCOMING EVENTS

**Youth Group Open House** is **Wednesday, December 2, 2020**, from 6:30 to 8:00 at the Family Center (5th—12th Graders)

**Men's Prayer Breakfast** **Saturday, December 5, 2020**, 8:00 a.m. at the Tri-C (the corner of Ollie & Tarleton Street.)

**Youth Group Christmas Get-Together—Sunday, December 13**, at the home of Ronnie & Darlene Hearne (Mark your calendars—time will be announced soon!)

**Community Christmas Dinner Prep** starts Saturday, December 12 and continues through December 16. The Community Christmas Dinner will be served “to go” from the Family Center Parking lot on Wednesday, December 16, 2020, from 4:00 to 7:00. There will also be delivery available for those who cannot come pick up their meals.

➤ A great big welcome to:

**Caden Marcus Pylant 6lbs. 14 oz. 21 1/4” Born 6 a.m. Sunday 11/22/2020** - welcomed by parents, **Miles & Emily**, Grandparents, **Mike & Denise Kribbs**, Uncle & Aunt, Landon & **Jessica Kribbs**, cousins, **Cord, Chaney & Cash**. All are doing well.

➤ **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](http://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>

**Graham Street Grill: Live Q & A Bible Study and Church Member Interviews**

**On pause—will start back up in the New Year!**

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

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

➤ **Basic Needs Totals for November:**

**Seniors 125 Families Served 86 Individuals 288 New Families 8**

**Total amount made from Garage Sale = \$5,400.00**



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; Debbie Kitchens; Peggy Glover; Jerry Lindley; Pam Clayton; Billy Powell; 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 Joni Stubbs, daughter of Eugene & Larinda Ray, who passed away recently; Alan & Jan Nix, who have been hospitalized with COVID-19; Bruce Caraway; The family of Greg Moon, son of Barbara Sissom, who passed away this week.



**Mark your calendars!** The Community Christmas Dinner will be held on **Wednesday, December 16, 2020, from 4:00 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. Prep will be from December 12—16. Meals will also be delivered to people who cannot come by the Family Center. Servant's Supper, for those who help prepare the meal, will be on Tuesday, December 15, 2020, at 6:30 p.m.



**We are participating and we will need volunteers to assist! Please plan to be a part of this if your schedule permits.**