



GRAHAM STREET

CHURCH OF CHRIST

Rooted - Growing - Reaching

January 24, 2021 Sunday

Bulletin Announcements and Updates—

“It’s More Than Restarting”

In a recent article by Matt Dabbs, “Seven Things We Learned about Church in Pandemic,” the first on his list was Flexibility. Here is what he wrote: “Not everything is going to happen on schedule. Get used to making adjustments. This is going to get us limbered up for the future when we are going to have to get more innovative in areas that we could have never done had the pandemic not taken place. Consider this a warmup!”

This has certainly been true for the Graham Street Church of Christ, hasn’t it? Even as we try to start back with our Bible Classes, the Wednesday night before the Sunday launch, we were still adjusting the times. **By the way, if you didn’t get the memo, First Service starts at 8:30, Bible Classes start at 9:45; and second service starts at 10:45 this Sunday!** The reason for the change in the time for the second service was that we had allowed an hour for the Bible Classes, but that is too long, especially for the young ones and their teachers. But how do you shorten their classes and have the other classes longer, and how do you prevent having a bottle neck in the lobby waiting to go into second service? The best way seemed to be to change our plans from allowing an hour for all the Bible Classes to make it 45 minutes and start the second service at 10:45 rather than 11:00. Being flexible is wise.

We learned this lesson early, way back in March of 2020. We didn’t know much about COVID, but we knew we had to be flexible as we learned more. At first, we scurried to develop a strategy to put protocols and strategies in place that would keep people safe and yet help us to function as a church on mission for Jesus. But what did that look like in dealing with something we had never dealt with before? We began buying sanitizing supplies, putting teams together to develop the strategies and carry them out, we encouraged sanitizing, masking, and social distancing in cooperation with the CDC, and our county and city guidelines. We discontinued gatherings that we considered the highest opportunities for spreading the virus and we began developing our virtual gatherings using the available technology.

But even in our best attempts to be flexible, we found we had to be flexible. We found our technology resources to be inadequate for the needs and with the high demand, many products and services were in short supply or unavailable, so we had to be flexible.

(continued on page 2)



It's More Than Restarting continued

We found that not everyone agreed with the protocols, some were kind, considerate and cooperative in their disagreement, some otherwise. We sought ways to be flexible, but resolute in our safety concerns, especially for the most vulnerable.

We found as we moved along that we needed to expand our understanding of “safety.” We were dealing with more than the just the physical danger of this strange virus, it was threatening the livelihoods of members of our church and community in ways that were beyond what we had experienced before. Employment and businesses were being impacted. Food insecurities were experienced in families that had never faced the thought of this threat. It was disrupting the peace of the family by throwing off our usual routines and patterns. It was impacting our emotional and spiritual wellbeing. And we had to be flexible about the priorities for the use of ministry resources of the church.

We found that the need for things to be normal was more than a knee jerk reaction against change, it was a desire to find healing in returning to the comfort of what was before the pandemic. Not because it was perfect before, but it was what we knew and what we expected, and it was predictable. The comfort of the regular patterns of life had been disrupted and we emotionally sought to get them back so we could know where we were going in the future again. Our church leadership had to shoulder the responsibility of trying to deal with the serious threat of the virus, bringing love and care to those physically impacted, and bring comfort to the emotional impact of this changing climate; and all the while not neglecting the spiritual priority of our church mission. Tall order! And one demanding a tremendous amount of flexibility, wisdom and grace.

I want to thank our Elders for their leadership through this unprecedented time of change. They have tried, and continue to try, to balance all the things I have mentioned above with God honoring conviction, patience, listening ears and hearts, and with an unrelenting love for this church. They will have to continue to be flexible as we try to “restart,” but I am confident they will do it with the right attitude. I want to thank my co-workers – Wes and Nichole, Taylor and Whitney, Don and Jeanette. I have told Wes and Taylor that I would not want to be a Youth or Campus Minister in the middle of this trying to balance the best practices while pursuing the objectives of impacting teens and young adults at the most vulnerable times in their spiritual lives. And I commend Don and Jeanette for protecting themselves so they can serve longer, when I know they wanted to be out doing what they have always done which would have literally killed them. And to all the volunteers who have stepped up and served in new ways – thank you for your flexibility, understanding and patience with a heart of service! And Graham Street Church Family, thank you for loving Vicki and me, being our family when we have not been able to be with our biological family, and being patient with our efforts to flexible.

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>

Also, **Taylor Holt will be offering a Bible Class for Young Adults** in Room 109 on Sunday mornings, starting January 24, 2021. This is for both College & Young Adults.

➤ **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>

➤ OPPORTUNITIES TO BE TOGETHER IN STUDY AND PRAYER

Sunday Morning Worship: 8:30 or 10:45 a.m. at the building.

Bible Class for all ages at 9:45 a.m.

Wednesday Night Bible Class in auditorium at 6:00

Wednesday Night Singing Class in Room 109 at 6:00

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/> The materials for this study are included with:

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>

➤ Please see the Thank You Cards from Kristi Johnson and Rosemary Nagle on the hall Bulletin Board.

➤ NEWS/UPCOMING EVENTS

Thursday, 01/28/2021—Night of 100 Casseroles—Prep 4:00 to 5:00 at Family Center—Distribution starts at 5:00 and ends when all the casseroles are gone



Charles Williams; Courtney Clayton; Fred Alvord; Mike Hughes;
 Ronnie Moring; Doug Gasset; Denise Powell; Paula Busby; Sherilyn Svien;
 Micaela Moore, Cynthia Price, Jody Caudle; Mike DeMott, Tabitha McClellan,
 James Young; Debbie Kitchens; Jerry Lindley; Pam Clayton; Billy Powell; Bob-
 by Tate; Bruce Caraway; Darrell Tucker; Chuck Gruenwald; Patti Wall, sister of
 Rebecca Stephens; Jody Dacus, daughter-in-law to Mike & Julie Dacus; Steve
 Ham; Diana Lee, daughter of Carroll & Judy Lee; the family of Perry Elliott
 who recently passed away; Peggy Glover's new temporary address:
 c/o Jennifer Dittrich, 7800 Lonesome Spur Trail, McKinney, TX 75070

► UPCOMING DATES TO MARK ON YOUR CALENDAR

Sunday, 01/24/2021 Church schedule changes 1st Service 8:30, Bible Classes 9:45, 2nd Service 10:45

Sunday, 01/24/2021—Sunday Night Worship in auditorium & Family Bible Class in Family Center both at 5:00

Thursday, 01/28/2021—Night of 100 Casseroles—Prep 4:00 to 5:00 at Family Center—
 Distribution starts at 5:00 and ends when all the casseroles are gone

Sunday, 01/31/2021—Fifth Sunday Singing 5:00 p.m. in Auditorium

Sunday, 02/07/2021—Restart Small Groups—Sign up for Small Groups in the Church Lobby or through the link that will be sent to you by email soon

► Giving Update

Contribution 01/17/2021 \$12,605 Budget: \$9,700/ YTD Contribution \$ 22,968 YTD Budget: \$29,100
 YTD Contribution for 2020: \$501,548 YTD Budget for 2020: \$504,400

Building Fund \$305,451 (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.)

► Basic Needs Totals 2nd week of January 2021:

Seniors 25	Families Served 20	Individuals 82	New Families 2
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► Basic Needs Totals for 2021 Year To Date:

Seniors 56	Families Served 47	Individuals 188	New Families 4
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