



# GRAHAM STREET

## CHURCH OF CHRIST

**Rooted - Growing - Reaching**

**February 14, 2021 Sunday**

**Bulletin Announcements and Updates—**

**“Restarting”**

Last week, we restarted our small group ministry, that did not mean that we are all reorganized and have all our small groups in place. And it certainly did not mean that they will all met last Sunday. But last Sunday we recommitted ourselves to restarting the small group ministry as a major way of doing God’s mission in this church. So, I encourage you to be a part of small group, whether you are meeting in person and virtually, through which you can serve others and receive support. We have 3 different types of small groups – SFGs (Spiritual Formation Groups), Support Groups, and Service (Ministry) Groups. We need more small groups where members can grow stronger in their faith, find support to help them through various challenges and crises, and be involved in a ministry team serving the needs of others. Some meet on Sundays, some meet during the week. They are all vital to our mission of being “Rooted, Growing and Reaching.” If you are interested in being a part of one of the two groups that I will, for now, be leading virtually – the Bigger C Encouragers, a crisis support group, or the CST (the Communications Support Team), a prayer and communications support team for the church - send me an email of your interest to [david@grahamstreetchurch.com](mailto:david@grahamstreetchurch.com) and I will send you more information. If you want to be a part of a small group but have not found one, let us help you find one.

I said the following as a part of my sermon last Sunday, but not everyone heard it, so let me say it again. I have not always been the leader I should have been through this past year. I have too often tried to manage instead lead. I have too often tried to deal with logistics instead of pointing us to God’s authority and mission. I have at times let myself be discouraged by the negativity rather than trusting in God’s timing, authority, and power. I have not taken full advantage of God’s timing to prepare us for where He is taking us. Now is the time to renew our commitment to whatever God is doing in this and be a part of the restart he is bringing. I ask for your prayers to do better as one of God’s leaders in this church. Let’s not just restart to “go back to normal,” let’s restart to be better than we were before.

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### Restarting Continued

Our Sunday morning worship order during the pandemic has been to sing a song after the sermon to prepare us for communion, then we sing another song or two after which we are led in prayer by one of our Shepherds, then we dismiss. When we first starting meeting back at the building after a few weeks of meeting in house churches, I asked you to look at the time after the sermon through the communion and leading up to the Shepherd's prayer as a time of examination of your heart and a time to ask for prayer, or help, or to let the Elder leading the Shepherd's Prayer know that you needed prayer or to be baptized, or that you would like to be a member of this church family. In our traditional Sunday worship services, we would call this the invitation and we even had an invitation song or song of encouragement as a time to respond. The approach I was providing was not just one song, but a block of time from the end of the sermon to the beginning of the Shepherd's Prayer which included the Lord's Supper as the invitation time. I received some criticism for this approach saying that adding the invitation to the Lord's Supper was a distraction. So, I backed off. I was wrong to back off. Part of the Lord's Supper's purpose is to be time of self-examination and an opportunity to let the Body of Christ give one another support and encouragement according to 1 Cor. 11:17-32. I am going to try again to emphasis this as an important part of our church family time together. I am asking the Elders and their wives to make themselves available during the time after the sermon to the Shepherd's prayer to talk with anyone who needs help, prayer, to be baptized, or wishes to commit to being a member of this church family. We will have the Shepherd who will be leading the Shepherd's Prayer available to take your response at the front of the auditorium and we will have one at the back in the lobby. And we would like to use our Shepherd's Prayer before we leave to try to meet your needs before we go.

The past year has been stressful in one way or another for all of us, and the church is called to be God's family of support. As we "restart," let's include finding ways to better be that support system as we go forward. A stronger Small Group Ministry and including supporting fellowship as part of our worship services is part of our "restart" strategy..

David Bearden

### NEWS/UPCOMING EVENTS

**Night of 100 Casseroles—Thursday, February 25, 2021 (drop off 4:00 to 5:00 at Family Center—casseroles handed out from 5:00 to 7:00 or until they are all gone.)**



### ➤ 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. (This week's Faith Story: Joseph—The Faith to Trust God and Forgive)**

**Sunday Night 2nd & 4th has Family Bible Class in Family Center & Worship Service in Auditorium (both at 5:00 p.m.)**

**Wednesday Night Bible Class in auditorium at 6:00 ("Getting To Know Jesus Through The Old Testament")**

**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>

### ➤ "Restarting" Small Group Study material is on the website:

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

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

### ➤ DATES TO MARK ON YOUR CALENDAR

**Small Groups have started meeting —Restart Small Groups-Sign up for Small Groups in the Church Lobby or through this link:**

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdfIn7DEqs0\\_JARrjNk5MICqArBLE2YIB0MecF2JwUihajOIA/viewform?vc=0&c=0&w=1&flr=0&gxids=7628](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdfIn7DEqs0_JARrjNk5MICqArBLE2YIB0MecF2JwUihajOIA/viewform?vc=0&c=0&w=1&flr=0&gxids=7628)

### ➤ Giving Update

**Contribution 02/07/2021 \$8,654 Budget: \$9,700/ YTD Contribution \$ 50,467 YTD Budget: \$ 58,200**

**Building Fund \$305,911 (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.)**



Charles Williams; Courtney Clayton; Fred Alvord; Mike Hughes; Ronnie Moring; Doug Gasset; Denise Powell; Paula Busby; Micaela Moore, Cynthia Price, Jody Caudle; Mike DeMott, Tabitha McClellan, James Young; Debbie Kitchens; Jerry Lindley; Pam Clayton; Billy Powell; Bobby Tate; 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.

**From Sherri Caraway:** Bruce is unable to complete his radiation and chemo treatments. He is at home on hospice care. Lauren, Avery & Emily are here with us. We have greatly appreciated the cards, texts, phone calls and especially the food that everyone has sent. We love you all and thank you for praying for us during this difficult time.

Please also remember to pray for the family of Sherilyn Svien, who passed away last week.

➡ **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:** For details and updates for 6th-12th grade students and their parents, go to <https://www.grahamstreetyouth.org>

The GYSG is invited to a time to relax, hangout, pray and have fun during the week. We will be in the Family Center on Wednesdays from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Games & snacks every week!

First Wednesday of each month we will have a meal available starting at 6:15 p.m.

➡ **Basic Needs Totals for Feb 2021:**

Seniors 46      Families Served 17      Individuals 77      New Families 4

**Basic Needs Totals for 2021 Year To Date:**

Seniors 169      Families Served 115      Individuals 444      New Families 9