



# GRAHAM STREET

## CHURCH OF CHRIST

**Rooted - Growing - Reaching**

**March 21, 2021 Sunday**

**Bulletin Announcements and Updates—**

**“BETTER THAN NORMAL”**

When I started my current sermon series and the small group discussion material that goes with it, it came out of an effort to do some lessons that could help us with “getting back to normal.” I chose this series because I was so often hearing that expression, “I will be glad when we can get back to normal.” Which from the context of COVID makes a lot of sense. There have been so many things in our lives, including church, that have not been normal, in fact, much of it has been tragic, debilitating, and unnerving. We look forward to taking our masks off and seeing each other smile and giving each other long hugs. We look forward to assembling in large groups close together without fear of becoming a super spreader event. We look forward to traveling freely again and seeing loved ones that we have only heard on the phone or seen on the screen. We look forward to just coming in from work and deciding to go out and eat in our favorite crowded restaurant. We look forward to kids being able to go to school, participate in sports and extracurricular activities in a normal way. As for church, we look forward to a worship service where we can sit close to people we love and sing songs we love with full voice and take communion without peeling back the seal on a plastic cup to eat what looks like a plastic wafer and drink juice that tests whether we still have our sense of taste and smell. We want to go back to normal, for the abnormal has been uncomfortable and distracting from where our hearts want to be in worship; and worse for some, it has produced anger, contempt, division, and unfaithfulness. We want to get back to normal, and for good reasons.

But what started as a small series of lessons to help us restart our normal has become a huge project and theme for the year. And I am extremely excited about it and feel led by the Spirit to expand it. The theme is, “BETTER THAN NORMAL!” If you haven’t caught on yet – I believe with all my heart God is leading us to not just go back to normal, but to go back BETTER THAN NORMAL! We need to take a look at every thing we are doing as a church and see if we are doing what we should according to God’s will and for the mission of the Church, and do it the very best we can. Someone asked me last Sunday, “David, when are you going to tell us what we are going to change?” Great question, but not so fast! The destination is BETTER THAN NORMAL, but don’t skip the journey! Let’s enjoy working through these things together.

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### “BETTER THAN NORMAL” continued

We are taking restarting principles from Ezra and Nehemiah, then we are looking at what our Lord taught about these from a New Kingdom perspective. Then we will see how these were applied to the Church and Christian practices. Let's study God's Word on some things that are just taken for granted as being our normal right way of doing it, and ask “Is this really what Christ wants us to do and can it be done better?”

For example, what are we doing with prayer, how can we do it better? How about the authority and application of God's Word, how can we do it better? How about worship, how can we do it better? How about mission work, how can we do it better? How about the work of the church in the community, how can we do it better? How about church leadership, how can we do it better? How about discipleship of our members and evangelism of the lost, how can we do it better? BETTER THAN NORMAL!

I encourage you to take advantage of the opportunities to join this journey to BETTER THAN NORMAL because our Lord is BETTER THAN NORMAL, and he deserves our BEST! Follow the sermon and participate in a small group follow-up discussion. Come to Bible Classes. Come to my Wednesday night class on “Christ in the Old Testament.” You might be surprised by what important topics we are studying. For example, we will be studying from Genesis chapters 2-3 the next few weeks discussing marriage and gender issues dealing with God's created plan, the impact of sin, the redemption brought by Christ, and what it means for the Church. You might come to Wednesday night class and discover something BETTER THAN NORMAL!

David Bearden

### ➤ 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. (Ruth—The Faith to Trust God in Your Family)**

**This Sunday Night (1st & 3rd) has Small Group get-togethers**

**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**

**Wednesday Night Graham Street Youth Group “REVIVE” in Family Center 6:30-7:30**

**Phase 3 Soon!**

➤ **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>



### ➤ **Basic Needs Totals for March 2021:**

Seniors 28    Families Served 25    Individuals 85    New Families 6

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

Seniors 288    Families Served 221    Individuals 106    New Families 15

Prison Ministry YTD 338 Bibles sent    322 Lessons Mailed

**NIGHT OF 100 CASSAROLES TOTALS FOR THURSDAY Feb. 25: 132**

➤ **Night of 100 Casseroles is Thursday, March 25th. Drop off food at Family Center from 3:00 to 3:45. Food distribution starts at 5:00 and lasts until all is handed out.**

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

The GSYG is invited to “REVIVE” 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!

### ➤ **21 Days of Prayer & Fasting began March 14th.**

Day 7, March 20: Pray thanks to God that we can abide in Jesus and ask John 15:7

Day 8, March 21: Pray thanks to God that he hears us and delivers us Ps. 34:17

Day 9, March 22: Pray for God’s help on your mission to those around you Acts 1:8

Day 10, March 23: Pray for a deeper relationship with God Prov. 8:17

Day 11, March 24: Pray offering yourself as a living sacrifice to God Rom. 12:2

Day 12, March 25: Pray thanks that Christ offered himself as a sacrifice for us Gal. 3:13

Day 13, March 26: Pray that you bring glory to God as His temple of Holy Spirit 1 Cor. 3:16

Day 14, March 27: Pray to make you spiritual health as important as physical health 3 John 2

➤ **Duracells meet Tuesday, April 13, 2021, 5:30 p.m., at the Family Center. Everyone bring a covered dish or dessert**



Charles Williams; Courtney Clayton; Fred Alvord; Mike Hughes; Ronnie Moring; Denise Powell; Paula Busby; Micaela Moore, Cynthia Price, Jody Caudle; James Young; Debbie Kitchens; Billy Powell; Bobby Tate; Chuck Gruenwald; Diana Lee, daughter of Carroll & Judy Lee; Bill Scott, husband of Gloria Scott; Chuck Arpe; Ricky Caudle.  
Please continue to keep the Svien family and the Caraway family in prayer.  
To Honor Sherilyn Svien—A celebration of life will be held in the Stephenville City Park Birdsong Amphitheater, Saturday, May 15.

**▶ ONLINE RESOURCES**

**Audio with Slides Recording on website ( <https://grahamstreetchurch.com/sermons> )**

**Family Resources: <https://www.grahamstreetchurch.com/house-church>**

**Small Group Lessons and Study materials are on the website:**

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

**Chronological Bible Reading:**

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

**▶ NEWS/UPCOMING EVENTS**

**21 DAYS OF PRAYER AND FASTING DAILY CALENDAR**

**BEGINNING EASTER MORNING - BIBLE CLASSES AT 9:00 and WORSHIP AT 10:00**

**SECURITY MEETING, Sunday, 3/21/2021, 9:45 in the Church Office Library**

**HE IS RISEN!**

**Community Sunrise Service**  
Hosted by the Stephenville Ministerial Alliance

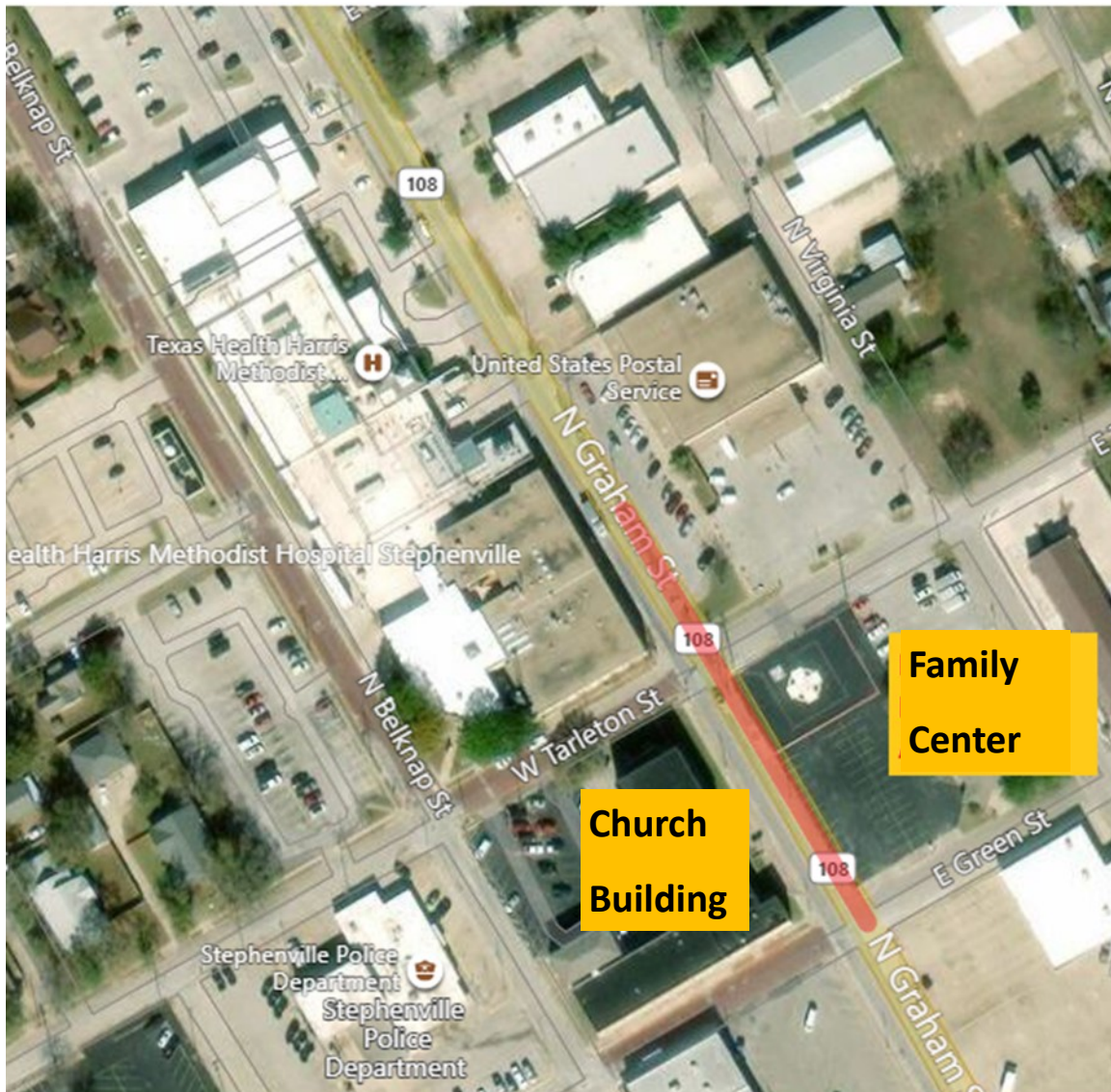
Sunday, April 4<sup>th</sup> @ 6:45am

Birdsong Amphitheater

Free breakfast burritos, donuts, orange juice and coffee after the service



The section of Graham Street from Green Street through Tarleton Street intersection to a point between Post Office entrance and exit (see map below) will be shut down **MONDAY, MARCH 22nd, 2021**. Tentatively the work is to be completed by Thursday, April 8th. Be alert for any updates on church activities scheduled for the Family Center during these dates, and use extreme caution in the Graham Street area between the church building and the Family Center.



### Giving Update

**Contribution 03/14/2021 \$7,936**

**Budget: \$9,700 a week YTD Contribution \$ 95,080 YTD Budget: \$ 106,700**

**Building Fund \$309,121** (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.) We are making plans to start Phase 3 soon!