



GRAHAM STREET CHURCH OF CHRIST

Rooted - Growing - Reaching

November 14, 2021 Sunday

DB's Dabblings: Speaking For The Dead

A dear friend in St. Louis, upon finding out that she had a rare terminal cancer, asked me to speak at her funeral when the time came, if I could. The time has come, and I can't make it back, but I am sending a video message. I am grateful to not only be able to share a few things about Stephanie, but also to speak for Stephanie about a couple of things she wanted me to share. Funerals and memorial services are to remember and honor those who have passed. They also remind us of the hope and victory we have in our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Primarily they are for the living, especially for the loved ones who will now deal with the grief and loss. But sometimes they are also a platform for the voice of the dead to speak a message that is better heard in their absence by remembering their life as a lesson, a testimony, if you will, of a truth for which they lived by example.

My mind is flooded with memories of Stephanie for I have known her for many years through many different stages of her life. But my heart is filled with pictures of Cardinals games, ping pong, visits to California, Six Flags, cheating at cards, corny jokes and puns, melted ice cream, her playing with our girls, talking about topics like music, marriage, parenting, dogs, bears, hospitals, death, heaven, angels, it covers a wide range of events and emotions.

It started as a young minister trying to figure out this teenage girl who seemed so funny, and lovable, dressed in bright colors with amazing wit and intelligence and mischief, and yet who at times was so troubled, sad, angry, hurt, confused, burdened, lost, broken and dark. She loved Jesus, was kind, serving, empathetic, caring; and yet doubted, judged, condemned, and lashed out.

I remember finding my yellow Volkswagen covered in brightly colored polka dots, wondering, not for a moment who was behind the prank, I knew immediately it was Stephanie's doing, but I wondered how in the world I would be able to repaint my car, which at the time wasn't really mine, it still belonged to John Burnett! Then, I realized that they were not painted on, they had been taped on. See what I mean? Mischievous, funny, prankster, and yet she never intended harm or hurt.

I remember visiting her one day in the adolescent psychiatric ward at Jewish Hospital, and when I entered her room, she had raised and folded her hospital bed to highest formation possible and was standing on the top reaching as high as she could toward the water sprinkler on the ceiling. That became for me a revelation of who Stephanie was, even in her drug influenced state, she was someone always reaching beyond for something better.

And so in her relationship with me and Vicki, and we became another big brother and sister to talk over life's decisions, share hurts and dreams, to celebrate and cry. (Continued on Page 2)



Speaking For The Dead (continued)

We struggled with her through the tough times, the difficult to deal with, the painful realities; but we also rejoiced with her in her victories. Her girls – Kylie and Cassidy – you know she loves you more than her life, her education and work, her spiritual journey, and the man of her dreams – her hero and great love - Bob. We were so happy for her. But this will take way too long to deal with these things. Let me share something that Stephanie found; something she wanted to share, that I think she would want us all to remember.

Early on in working with Stephanie I found a children's book that we could talk about together. It was the **Velveteen Rabbit** by Margery Williams (subtitled, **How Toys Become Real**). I will not try to deal with all the story, but it tells of a stuffed toy rabbit that becomes real through a little boy's love, because the stuffed Rabbit learned what it meant to love the boy. My objective in talking to her about the story was to help her move beyond the identifying labels that she felt she had been given. She felt she had to live within those labels, because only within them, would people feel forced to love her, and therefore feeling this way, she felt artificial, unworthy and unlovable. I tried to help her with this story to realize that because she was loved for who she really was beyond those labels, she could love herself. And over time she made the story of the Velveteen Rabbit her story. She became an example of encouragement to those who struggle in identities that hold them back, to learn to reach beyond. Instead of being defined by mental illness she helped herself and others to see who she really was, as capable of so much more. Instead of being defined by brokenness and divorce, or a victim of cancer, she helped herself and others to see who she really was, and to reach beyond. To love, and be loved, not out of pity or position or duty, but for who she really was and who she could be, and she proved it to herself and all those who knew her. She would encourage all of us to not be constrained by the labels of our darkest moments in life, but to learn to love and become the real person we can be, beyond our labels, by discovering real love in loving others.

Stephanie would want us to remember that the troubles of this life do not have to control us, define us, or defeat us and they don't begin to compare with the glory to come (Romans chapter 8). We can reach beyond, and with God's love and power, we can be more than conquerors in this life and in the life beyond, for nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

David Bearden

If you are New or Visiting? Connect with Us! Use your phone camera to scan this QR Code and fill out a Connection form online! **If you started attending here sometime since January 2020, please fill out the form so we can update our information.**



QR Code to access
Connection Form.



NEWS/UPCOMING EVENTS

- **November 14, 2021: Children's Bible Class—The Story:** From Shepherd To King
- **November 14, 2021: Children's Church** continues
- **November 14, 2021: GPS Class Continues—"Better Parenting Through Better Marriages"**
- **November 14, 2021: Hughbert Collier teaches a class in the auditorium on Revelation**
- **November 14, 2021: Soup & Scope Meeting—Room 109 7:00 p.m.** for those wishing to help with Bible 101 which starts in January

November 17, 2021: Wednesday Night Classes Continue—Wednesday Night Meals Continue

Wednesday Night Meals —5:30 to 6:15 in the Family Center

(Menu: Grilled Cheese, Chili, Dessert)

Wednesday Night Bible Classes —6:30 in the main building.

"What's in a Name? A Study of the Names, Titles, and Descriptions of God"

(Yahweh Adonai—Lord of Lords)

Classes for all ages. We will all meet in the auditorium for a short devotional focused on God's Name and then break into classes in various places in the building.

Under age 3—in the Nursery

Age 3 to 2nd Grade—in The Loft (with parents)

3rd—5th Grade—In Orange Room (upstairs)

Revive—in Family Center (Youth Group)

Adults—in the auditorium

- **November 18, 2021: Night of Casseroles**—drop off your casseroles from 4:00 to 4:45 at the Family Center—help distribute them starting at 5:00 until they are all gone
- **November 21, 2021: Guest Preaching:** Doug Young, President/CEO at Foster's Home
- **November 23—26: Office Closed for Thanksgiving**
- **November 27, 2021: ChristmasVille Parade of Lights** more details soon





SUNDAY OPPORTUNITIES TO BE TOGETHER IN STUDY AND PRAYER

Bible Class for all ages at 9:00 a.m.

Children's Class: The Story: From Shepherd to King

GPS Class continues—Better Parenting Through Better Marriages

Adult Class: Hughbert Collier leads a class on the book of Revelation in Auditorium

Sunday Morning Worship 10:00 a.m.

NIGHT OF 100 CASSEROLES TOTALS FOR THURSDAY October 28:

At least 25 volunteers handed out 181 casseroles in less than 90 minutes.

Plus \$495 was donated to help pay for next month's Night of Casseroles.

The next Night of Casseroles is November 18, 2021.

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>

December 3—5th: Youth Group Families, Winter Retreat at Camp Bandina—You can sign up online—**Deadline for sign up is this Sunday, November 14, 2021.**

Giving Update

Contribution 11/07/2021 \$9,296 (95.83%) Budget: \$9,700

YTD Contribution \$ 421,923 (96.67%) YTD Budget: \$ 436,500

Building Fund \$368,599 - Our goal is \$350,000—We have arrived, but let's keep going!



Charles Williams; Rusty Rose; Courtney Clayton; Bill Hodgson; Ronnie Moring; Paula Busby; Micaela Moore; Jody Caudle; Peggy Glover; Mildred Buchanan; Billy Powell; Chuck & Kathy Gruenwald; Bill Scott; Chuck Arpe; Ricky Caudle; Charlie Hart; Brenda Caraway; Vincent Lopez; Patty Jones; Tim Childers; Sherri Carraway; Hartley Hearne, great-niece of Ronnie & Darlene Hearne, cancer reoccurrence; Judy Vaughn; Lynn Anne Hughes; Tommy Wilson, father of Wes Wilson; Paul Schulze; Thurman Goleman; Billy Powell; Fred Alvord; Bobby Tate; Johanna Graham

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>

GPS Resources:

[GPS | Graham Street Church of Christ](#)

To enhance our on-line Church Directory, we are updating the information. We need your new phone numbers, address. **We especially need any current photos of your family that you would like to be used.** Please send to: office@grahamstreetchurch.com

Graham Street has raised money to provide Shona language Bibles for distribution throughout Zimbabwe. World Bible School is partnering with us in this effort and has challenged their supporters to match the funds that we raise. Graham Street has surpassed our goal of \$20,000. \$10,000 of the total came Mary Batchelor's gift to the congregation. Each Bible cost \$8.50. We were able to raise **\$21,395.56**, and with matching funds it will be possible to purchase at least 4,700 Bibles!



"Family Connection"

2nd Sunday Emphasis

Recommitting to Small Groups

Your Family Connection

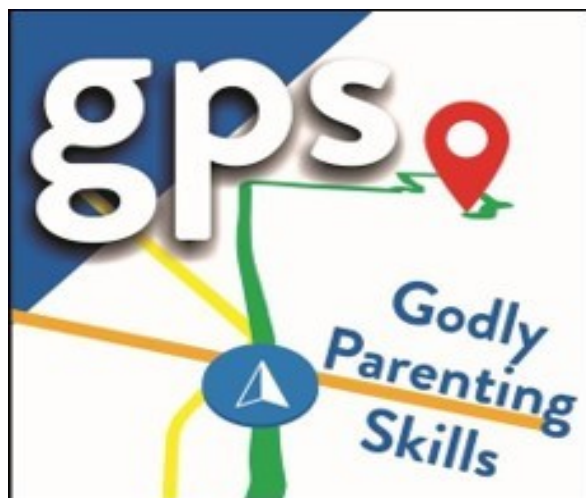
To Our Church Family

Starting September

Some Family Discussion Questions:

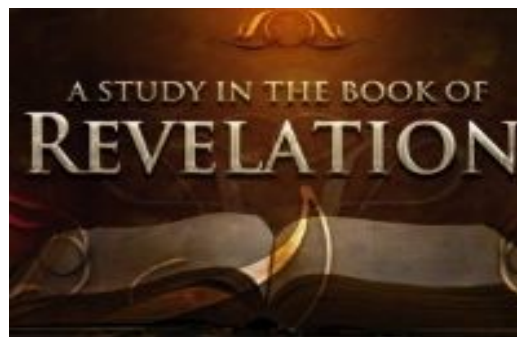
1. Who outside our family do we know in the church? How could we make that a stronger connection?
2. Who is someone outside our family that we don't know that we could make a connection with?
3. Who is outside our family who needs a stronger connection to our church family that we could help become better connected?

Take Steps as a Family to Make Connections to Our Church Family.



Sun., Nov. 14, 9:00am GPS room.

GPS Class "Better Parenting Through Better Marriages"



Adult Class in Auditorium

Hughbert Collier leads a class on the book of Revelation

Worship 10:00 a.m.

HELLO
my name is

Yahweh Adonai

Lord of Lords

Wednesday Night Bible Classes

6:30 Auditorium

"What's In a Name (of God)?"



Parade of Lights—More details soon.



Be sure to see the Thank You card from the Dacus family posted on the Bulletin Board in the hallway.

Tree of Thankfulness



Graham Street Family...
What are you thankful for? Grab a leaf from the basket in the foyer and write down something you are grateful or thankful for.

Help us fill our tree with leaves of gratitude.

