

DB's Dabblings: The Season of Thankfulness

We have been emphasizing Thankfulness this month, and I know it will continue to be an emphasis in the month of December. I appreciate the work that Wes, Nichole and Megan have put into our Family Connection Projects and the Family Bible Class to emphasize the principles of giving thanks in our Children's Ministry. When we get back Sunday morning from celebrating Thanksgiving, Wes and I are going to team up on the sermon and look at thankfulness from a two-fold approach. Wes will preach on "Thankfulness in Receiving," including for our greatest gift in Jesus' sacrifice for us when we share communion. I will preach on "Thankfulness in Giving."

You might think Wes' lesson is easier to develop because there are so many things we have received to be thankful for, but I have the advantage of a very clear statement about my topic. It is found in a quote Paul uses in Acts 20:35 to the Ephesian Elders, "In every-thing I did, I showed you that by this kind of hard work we must help the weak, remembering the words the Lord Jesus himself said: 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'" (Acts 20:35 NIV2011)

It is clear in this, and the context of the whole of Paul's speech to these Elders, that what he is applying this quote to is more than giving money, although that is included. Paul's intention seems to be to help the Shepherds understand that their leadership role in the church is found in giving rather than receiving. Paul modeled this leadership before them in his total commitment to his mission and ministry. He gave of himself, even at the risk of his life. He gave up everything to share the Gospel so that both Jews and Gentiles would be saved and be a part of the Kingdom of God worldwide. He gave of his own personal funds to support those in need who were a part of his mission efforts. Paul lived the example of being more blessed by giving than receiving, and he was encouraging the Ephesian Elders to follow his example.

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The Season of Thankfulness (Continued)

As a church, we have so much to be thankful for, and we are even more blessed by our giving. Time and time again, it has been illustrated that the Graham Street Church is a giving church. Not just in financial offerings, but in service to the needs of members and those in the community, and in the distant mission fields we support. You give generously of your money to support our efforts, you donate casseroles and buy Bibles. You also serve in Basic Needs and in the Prison Ministry, teach children, cook and serve food, visit the shut-ins, and the list goes on. I encourage every member to be a part of this blessing, even if you can only give a small amount in your time, talent and money; give what you can and see if the blessing of "thankfulness" doesn't grow through your giving. You may think that the little bit you can give or serve is not enough to help. Try giving what you can, and see if our Lord's words are not true, "It is more blessed to give than to receive."

David Bearden



QR Code to access Connection Form.

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.





NEWS/UPCOMING EVENTS

November 18, 2021: Night of Casseroles—5:00 to 7:00 in the Family Center Parking Lot
November 21, 2021: Children's Bible Class—The Story: The King Who Had It All
November 21, 2021: No Children's Church (will start back up again next Sunday, 11/28/2021)
November 21, 2021: GPS Class – Special Meeting with Parents to Discuss Education Wing Renovation. Megan Becker will serve as Facilitator
November 21, 2021: Hughbert Collier teaches a class in the auditorium on Revelation
November 21, 2021: Elders & Deacons Meeting in Family Center during Bible Class 9:00
November 21, 2021: Guest Preaching: Doug Young, President/CEO at Foster's Home
November 21, 2021: Community Thanksgiving Worship Service, Hosted by the Miniterial Alliance— City Limits at 6:00 p.m.
November 24, 2021: Wednesday Night Classes Paused for Thanksgiving
November 24, 2021: Revive Paused for Thanksgiving
November 23—26: Office Closed for Thanksgiving
November 27, 2021: ChristmasVille Parade of Lights starts at 6:30 p.m. Downtown Stephenville
November 28, 2021: No Classes for Children or Adults— Special Thanksgiving Service at 10:00 a.m.
December 4, 2021: Men's Prayer Breakfast at the Tri-C, Corner of Ollie & Tarleton 8:00 a.m.
December 12, 2021: Youth & Family Ministry Emphasis Day—lesson given by Wes Wilson
December 12, 2021: GYSG Christmas Party—Details to come soon
December 12, 2021: Santa Supper Christmas Party—5:00 p.m. at the Family Center (more details coming soon.)
December 15, 2021: Community Christmas Dinner—5:00 to 7:30 (Family Center Parking Lot)

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SUNDAY OPPORTUNITIES TO BE TOGETHER IN STUDY AND PRAYER Bible Class for all ages at 9:00 a.m. Children's Class: The Story: The King Who Had It All 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— Giving Update **Contribution 11/14/2021** \$8,195 (95.83%) Budget: \$9,700 **YTD Contribution** \$430,119 (96.67%) YTD Budget: \$446,200 Building Fund \$369,849 - Our goal is \$350,000—We are currently working on the strategy for the auditorium and the Education Wing.





Charles Williams; Rusty Rose; Bill Hodgson; Ronnie Moring; Aiden Lynn Love, great-grandson of Carolyn & Jimmie Green; Paula Busby, fell and broker her hip; Micaela Moore; Jody Caudle; Peggy Glover; Mildred Buchanan; 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; Lynn Anne Hughes; Tommy Wilson, father of Wes Wilson; Paul Schulze; Billy Powell; Fred Alvord; Bobby Tate; Johanna Graham; Ben Lewis, recovering from Covid

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/small-group-materials 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

The Fall Basic Needs Garage Sale brought in over \$8,000 to help further the mission. Thank you to everyone that helped make it a success.

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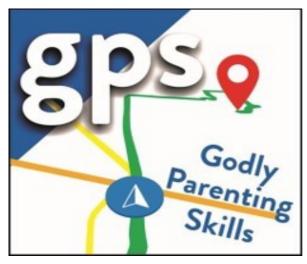


"Family Connection"

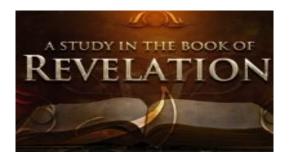
2nd Sunday Emphasis Recommitting to Small Groups Your Family Connection To Our Church Family Starting September Some Family Discussion Questions:

- 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. 21, 9:00am GPS room. GPS Class - Parents Meeting



Adult Class in Auditorium Hughbert Collier leads a class on the book of Revelation Worship 10:00 a.m.



Yahweh Tsidkenu (12/01) Lord of Our Righteousness Wednesday Night Bible Classes 6:30 Auditorium "What's In a Name (of God)?"



Parade of Lights—6:30 p.m.—Downtown Stephenville

Join us for our Christmasville Celebration! There will be a lighted parade, fireworks, a tree lighting, and more!



Tree of Thankfulness



Help us fill our tree with leaves of gratitude. 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.

