



GRAHAM STREET CHURCH OF CHRIST

Rooted - Growing - Reaching

December 22, 2024

may you know
the comfort & joy
of God's
presence this
Christmas
season & always!

jucoolimages.com

Youth Group Christmas Party

Please join us for our

Christmas Party

5-7PM

Sunday **22** December

@ The Gilley's
1140 Walking Horse
Stephenville, TX 76401

**Please bring a \$10 gift if you would like to participate in the gift exchange

**NO WED.
NIGHT
ACTIVITIES**

12/25/2024 & 01/01/2025

12/29/2024

10:00 a.m.
Worship

12/29/2024

10:00 a.m.
Worship

no bible class

12/29/2024

12/29/2024



Sharing the Jesus Life



Today, I am humbled by God’s grace, faithful love of Karen, family, friends and answered prayers. “For all that you have done I will thank you . . .” “If it were not for the Lord who was on our side . . .” “My heart, my mind, my body, my soul, Lord, take control.”

These songs mean so much more than one year ago, December 15. It is the anniversary of Karen taking me to the ER in great pain—stomach, back and chest. Fortunately, it was not my heart. But they did not know what was wrong. Karen thought I would be in the hospital a few days and come home. We had no idea of the journey ahead. By Christmas, family gathered with great anxiety being told by doctors that I was critical. I was out of it and didn’t know anything—a total systemic shut down. Docs gave me a 20% chance of living. I was put on ECMO (extracorporeal membrane oxygenation)—the ultimate life support for over two weeks. At one time, family counted sixteen lines/IV’s/tubes and three machines going into my body.

Every day was a roller coaster with total time in three hospitals of five months ten days (Dec 15-May 25). Karen was a warrior through it all and put over 5,000 miles on her car back and forth to hospitals while keeping home going and being a medical advocate. I am grateful for all the doctors, nurses and care to keep me alive and the arduous journey of healing. I am seventy-five pounds down (not a recommended weight loss program) punctuated by lots of PT, OT, home health and wound care. Through it all, my family was always present along with the outpouring of cards, texts, calls, visits and resources. We are blessed and I have come so far realizing there is so much I don’t remember, thankfully. Moving forward For several weeks, I have been walking and driving myself to dialysis. I have a new set of friends and ministry at the dialysis center. I am getting stronger; wounds are healing, and I am waiting to get on a kidney transplant list at Methodist Dallas. The transplant team says the best-case scenario is for me to have a live donor. Prayers appreciated. I am returning to HOPE Network The HN Board of Directors shepherded everything in a way that provided me, in essence, family medical leave for one year to heal.

(continued on next column)

Sharing the Jesus Life Continued)

My dear friend, Beth Hadley, assumed the role of executive director this past year with the twenty-five HOPE Network partners and associates stepping up in a big way. Beth Hadley and I will co-lead HN beginning in January. My travel schedule will undoubtedly be limited, necessitating creativity with mentoring, coaching, and consulting.

I know I am different because of this experience, and I want to use it to bless others. I continue to ponder this reality and adjust in how I do ministry. I am ready to dive back into HOPE Network, and we are so incredibly grateful for God’s faithfulness and healing. Sharing the Jesus Life I will continue to post on Facebook, occasionally post live videos, and write at gradyk@substack.com on church leadership, spiritual formation, and gospel-formed living. I want my story to be for God's glory! Blessings, GDK



Month of November 2024

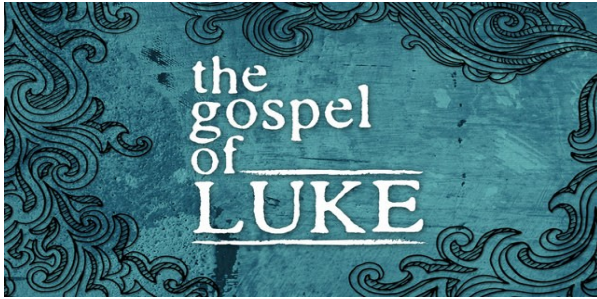
Individuals	413
Families	112
New	9

Basic Needs Food Pantry and Clothing store will be closed and we will not be accepting donations December 20th - 27th. We will be open and start accepting donations December 30th, 31st then be closed January 1st. The food pantry and clothing store will be open regular hours beginning 01/02.



Love Basket Totals

- 11/1/24: 123 families/377 individuals
- 11/15/24: 161 families/519 individuals
- 18 New families in November.



Adult Bible Study Opportunities

Sunday, 12/22/2024, all classes, including children's classes, will meet at 9:00 in the auditorium. We will be singing some Christmas Carols and Hymns. Please join us in our praise of the Lord.



Young Adult Class

This Sunday, 12/22/2024, please come to the auditorium at 9:00 and join with others to sing carols and hymns.



GPS Class

David Bearden has been leading the Godly Parenting Skills class in the GPS room. **The class will begin meeting again in January.** Please attend the Adult Class in the Auditorium until the GPS Class resumes.



Ladies' & Men's Wednesday Night Bible Class

There will not be a Wednesday Night Class on 12/25/2024 or on 1/01/2025. Stay Safe In Your Holiday Travels.



Sunday's Sermon Will Be Led by David Bearden
The topic is "What's His Name?"



**O Come Let Us Adore Him
2024 Advent Reflections**

Advent is a time to make room in the inn of our hearts to receive Christ anew. This collection of daily scripture readings and reflections includes contributions of pastors and ministry workers from over 10 different congregations of various denominations across Erath County.

This great ecumenical collection represents the desire for unity in Christ among all his followers as we unit to celebrate the birth of our shared King.

We pray that these reflections will be an inspiration and encouragement for all the faithful who wish to come and adore our Lord at the manger with us this season.

40 Days of Daily Devotional Readings begins Thanksgiving Day. **We are asking for a donation of \$5.00 to cover the cost of printing and shipping. Find them on the Welcome Table in the Lobby.**





SUNDAY December 22

- December 22: **All Adult & Children Classes**—will meet in the auditorium at 9:00 a.m. for the singing of carols and hymns. We hope you can join us.
- December 22: **Sunday Morning Worship** at 10:00 AM David Bearden will preach the lesson on “What’s His Name?”
- December 22: **Youth Christmas Party at the home of Chad & Lacy Gilley**

UPCOMING EVENTS

➤ December 25: **Wednesday Night Meal** - There will not be a meal this week on Wednesday Night



➤ December 29: **There will be no 9:00 a.m. classes for Adults or for Children**

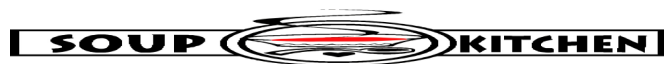
➤ December 29: **Sunday Morning Worship at 10:00 a.m.** David Bearden will preach the lesson on “New Year’s Renewal”

➤ January 5: **Sunday Morning Classes** will resume at 9:00 a.m. in their usual locations

➤ January 5: **Sunday Morning Worship at 10:00 a.m.**

➤ January 8: **Wednesday Night Meals** resume at 5:30

➤ January 9: **Soup Kitchen at 5:00** in the Family Center



The Church Office will be closed December 24, 2024, through January 1, 2025.





Fred & Cathey Alvord and their son-in-law, Jimmy Robison; Billy & Linda Powell; Courtney Clayton; Jody Caudle; Mischelle Oliver; Ricky Caudle; Mildred Buchanan; Karen Bills; Micaela Moore; Ken & Shirley Evans; Becky Norris; Kenneth Wylie, room 309 in Mulberry Manor; Chantelle Mora; Pam Clayton; Dorothy Christian; Susie Barnes

Giving Update

Contribution 12/15/2024 \$ **13,640** **Budget for 2024** \$ **12,900**

YTD Contribution \$ **617,372** **YTD Budget for 2024** \$ **645,000**

Percentage of YTD Contribution Budget **95.72%**



Texans For Christ Campus Ministry

We Welcome Back Tarleton
Students on Sunday,
January 19, 2025



CareFlite Insurance is Still Available
\$75.00 covers your entire family for 5 years
Enrollment Forms are in the Church Office



Monday Evenings, 6:30 p.m.
Family Center
For any Hurt, Habit or Hangup

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!

QR Code to access Connection Form





Heart | Soul | Mind | Strength
Graham Street Youth Group



TEENS

Children's Ministry



For ages 3, 4 & 5
*Volunteers See
Courtney McGuire*



12/22 - Christmas Party (see page 1 for details)

Jan. 17—19 Winterfest



Children's Bible Lessons

Every Sunday Morning at 9:00



There Will Not Be Children's Church 12/22
or 12/29

Children's Offering goes to Glenn Moody
Bible Fund which provides Bibles for many
who do not have one.

Meeting Times Sunday

Classes 9:00 a.m.

Worship 10:00 a.m.

Wednesday Meal 5:30

Wednesday Class 6:30

Church Office Hours

Mon-Thurs. 9:00 am - 4:00 pm

Phone 254-965-4510

Website/Email

www.grahamstreetchurch.com
office@grahamstreetchurch.com

WIFI password: john1335

Address 312 N. Graham St.
Stephenville, TX 76401



Wednesday Night Meal

There will not be a Wednesday Night Meal on
12/25/2024 or

01/01/2025



Readings Psalm 25:1-10, Nehemiah 9:16-25; 1 Thessalonians 5:12-22

Psalm 25:1-10 (NRSV) 1 To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul. 2 O my God, in you I trust; do not let me be put to shame; do not let my enemies exult over me. 3 Do not let those who wait for you be put to shame; let them be ashamed who are wantonly treacherous. 4 Make me to know your ways, O LORD; teach me your paths. 5 Lead me in your truth, and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; for you I wait all day long. 6 Be mindful of your mercy, O LORD, and of your steadfast love, for they have been from of old. 7 Do not remember the sins of my youth or my transgressions; according to your steadfast love remember me, for your goodness sake, O LORD! 8 Good and upright is the LORD; therefore he instructs sinners in the way. 9 He leads the humble in what is right, and teaches the humble his way. 10 All the paths of the LORD are steadfast love and faithfulness, for those who keep his covenant and his decrees.

The Psalmist, David, writes of his trust in the Lord, his Savior, in Psalm 25:1-10. He contrasts his way of rebellion and sin (v. 7) with the way of God (vs. 4,8,9,10) that leads to hope (vs. 3,5). His prayer is that God will remember him in the Lord's love, mercy and faithfulness (v. 6,7,10), and not remember him by the sins of his youth (v.7)

Ezra preaches to the returning remnant in Jerusalem in Nehemiah 9:16-25 with the encouragement to remember that the Israelites in the wilderness rebelled against God in making and worshiping a golden calf, and yet, God did not abandon them for God was a "forgiving God, gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and abounding in love" (v. 18).

Paul, likewise, reminds Christians to remember the blessings of God as we journey toward our promise land. "Be joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus." (1 Thes. 5:16-18)

After enduring through all your difficulties,
 And giving thanks for God's deliverance;
After counting the joy of all your blessings,
 And giving thanks for God's abundance;
After regretting the pain of all your mistakes,
 And giving thanks for God's forgiveness;
After remembering all your anxious dread,
 And giving thanks for God's eternal hope;
Remember that your gracious God,
loves you more than you love yourself.

David Bearden



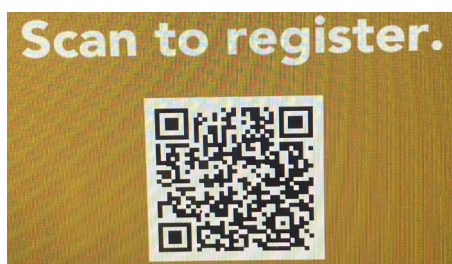


Harding University School of Theology

Church Audit

Since our congregation supports HST with \$1,200 or more per year, you are eligible to audit select classes for \$75 per course and learn from world-class professors. Times are listed in Central Standard Time.

Spring 2025 ONLINE AND IN-PERSON 501-279-4747



BNEW 5231: Gospel of Mark — Dr. Je Peterson Mondays, 1-3:45 p.m. (begins Jan. 13) This course covers the history of interpretation, introductory matters, analysis of structure and major themes, and exegesis. Special emphasis is given to the relationship between Mark's understanding of Christology and discipleship.

BNEW 5200: New Testament Survey — Dr. Peter Rice Tuesdays, 8:15-10:55 a.m. (begins Jan. 14) Designed to familiarize students with the basic content of the entire New Testament, this course gives special emphasis to structure and basic themes of each book. Spring 2025 ONLINE AND IN-PERSON 501-279-4747 Scan to register. If your congregation supports HST with \$1,200 or more per year, you are eligible to audit select classes for \$75 per course and learn from world-class professors. Times are listed in Central Standard Time.

BMIS 5920: Multicultural Ministry — Matthew Love, M.Div. Tuesdays, 6-8:45 p.m. (begins Jan. 14) Building on a biblical theology of diversity, hospitality, reconciliation and inclusion, this course will study issues of leadership, worship and evangelism in a multicultural church. Students will survey models of multicultural churches and experience application to various ministries through a field education experience and case studies.

harding.edu/hst | 501-279-4747 | 915 E. Market Ave, Box 12280 • Searcy, AR 72149