



GRAHAM STREET CHURCH OF CHRIST

Rooted - Growing - Reaching

January 12, 2025

GOALS FOR 2025 - Let's Make 2025 a Year of Renewal to Lord's Mission

Next month will mark the 8th anniversary of the start of my work with the Graham Street Church of Christ. It was my plan to begin the year with a couple of sermons on **Renewing Our Commitment to the Lord's Mission for the Graham Street Church of Christ**. I started that process the last Sunday of 2024, preaching on the emphasis of the Great Commission to make Disciples and how that parallels our mission of being Rooted, Growing and Reaching. I was going to go through 12 major areas we need to emphasize in 2025 to successfully renew our commitment to this mission in my first new year's sermon last week, but COVID kept me from doing that. I feel we need to get back to our series on Obstacles to Spiritual Growth and our Wednesday night men's and women's discussion classes, so I am going to develop a series of articles in our weekly online newsletter on these 12 major goal areas rather than trying to do a rushed sermon on them. Let me first start by giving you an overview starting with the emphasis on "Making Disciples." What is God's purpose, vision and mission for our lives? Rom. 8:28-29 "And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the likeness of his son." - Be a Disciple of God's Son. This Purpose is the Mission is found in the Great Commission Mat. 28:18-20: Be a Disciple, Make Disciples, Train Disciples to Be and Make Disciples. We summarize this in 3 words: Rooted, Growing, Reaching

So, What are we going to do in 2025 to renew our commitment to the Lord's mission to make disciples, people conformed to the image of the Son of God? To be Rooted, Growing, Reaching?

1. Preaching about our mission: The last two years I have focused my preaching on Rooted and Growing. In 2025 we will finish Growing and then focus on Reaching Out to Make Disciples of Christ
2. Leadership Development Eph. 4:11-13
3. Hire New Campus Minister and Reach Out to Tarleton State
4. Meet the Increased in Demand for Basic Needs (Mat. 25:31-46)
5. Improve our Facilities for: (to better achieve our Disciple Making mission)}
6. Mission – with an emphasis on Prison Ministry (refer back to Mat. 25:31-46)
7. Celebrate Recovery and other needed support groups
8. GPS (Godly Parenting Skills) and building strong families
9. Continue to Grow Children's and Youth Ministries Mat. 19:13-15
10. Duracells (Senior Saints) Ministry 1 Tim. 4
11. Adult Bible Teaching
12. Love and Build up One Another (Eph. 3:10-11, 20-21; 4:11-16). For they will know that we are the disciples of Christ by our love for one another (John 13:35).

David Bearden



Is Your Church a Hospitable Church?

A good friend of mine and his wife have recently found themselves adjusting to a new church following a move. I consider them to be disciples of Jesus, they love the church and have faithfully served in leadership capacities. During a recent conversation, my friend discussed how much he has learned about the difficulties of being "the new one" in a church. He also commented about how, in reflection, he could have done a better job to welcome others, but he was just unaware of what someone is going through. His comment *"Grady, I have come to realize that there is a BIG difference between a **friendly** church and a **welcoming** church" struck a chord with me, so I asked him to share some of his observations*

As my friend notes—*"None of the things are intentional, but they are a result of an "unawareness" we have of the "other" that is sitting in the seats next to us at church."*

Here are his specific observations.

Being a "friendly" church is much different than being a "welcoming" church.

The church I attend now, and the church that I was a leader at before, proudly tout themselves as being a "friendly church"- and I would agree! They/ we are there with a smile and a handshake, which is very inviting the first week or two. However, as the weeks go on, and that **continues to be the depth of interaction, it leaves one lacking.**

I came to realize that "friendly" is easy and non-engaging.

"Welcoming" requires work, engagement, and intentionality.

Moving to a new church is an emotional and spiritual upheaval in a person or family's life. This was an area that I was lacking in understanding until I lived through it. If a family has moved into your area there is a physical disorientation-Where are things in my new town? What is there to do? This can be especially true if one moves to an area for a job- the worker is focused on how to start well in their new job- and the family must "figure it out" on the fly.

I did not realize how much I would miss my friends- until I did not have any friends. As the weeks went on without any meaningful discussions or relationships, that "emotional loss" was heightened. Whether someone moves into an area, or they are exploring a new church, there is a spiritual challenge that is happening in their lives.

(continued at top of next column)

Is Your Church a Hospitable Church? Continued

Disoriented is how I describe the feeling and experience.

There are many "lonely times" in a church service. So, what can we do if we want to be a "Welcoming" church?

Awareness: Have a group of people (unrealistic to believe all will) that are "aware" of these challenges for others. Awareness of what someone else may be experiencing will drive questions and engagement that will explore what the "other s experiencing.

Advocacy: Consider having a "sponsor or advocate" for a new member for a period of time.

This is someone who:

- Will act as their host to actively introduce new members to others.

- Can be sure that new members are not searching for a place to sit at church functions, etc.

- Can follow-up on "where someone is" emotionally and spiritually instead of having assumptions about their status.

These are my friend's reflections in the spirit of reflecting God's hospitality. Awareness and advocacy are essential to a welcoming church.

Blessings, GDK



Month of November 2024

| | |
|-------------|-----|
| Individuals | 413 |
| Families | 112 |
| New | 9 |



Basic Needs has an URGENT need for these items: CEREAL, chicken, TUNA, shampoo, deodorant & all other Toiletries are also needed, etc.

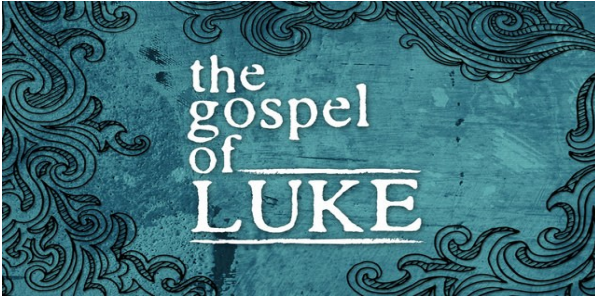
Your help is appreciated!

Let's Fill The Cart & More!

BASIC NEEDS



Adult Bible Study Opportunities



On Sunday, 01/12/2025, at 9:00 a.m. in the auditorium Doug Svien will be teaching. Doug will be continuing the in-depth study of The Gospel of Luke.

You don't want to miss it. These are important lessons about the life and teaching of Jesus.



Young Adult Class

This Sunday, 01/12/2025, at 9:00 in Room 109, join Andy Brewer and Evan McLeroy as they lead the discussion on "Discipleship 101".



GPS Class

David Bearden has been leading the Godly Parenting Skills class in the GPS room. **The class is meeting this Sunday, January 12th and will be studying "Family Walk Through the Bible".**

(See Page 4 for more details)



Ladies' & Men's Wednesday Night Bible Class

The Men's & Women's Bible Class will meet on Wednesday, 1/15/2025, at 6:30 in their respective class locations. "Obstacles to Spiritual Growth—Testing Trials"



Sunday's Sermon Will Be Led by David Bearden
The topic is ""Obstacles to Spiritual Growth—Testing Trials"

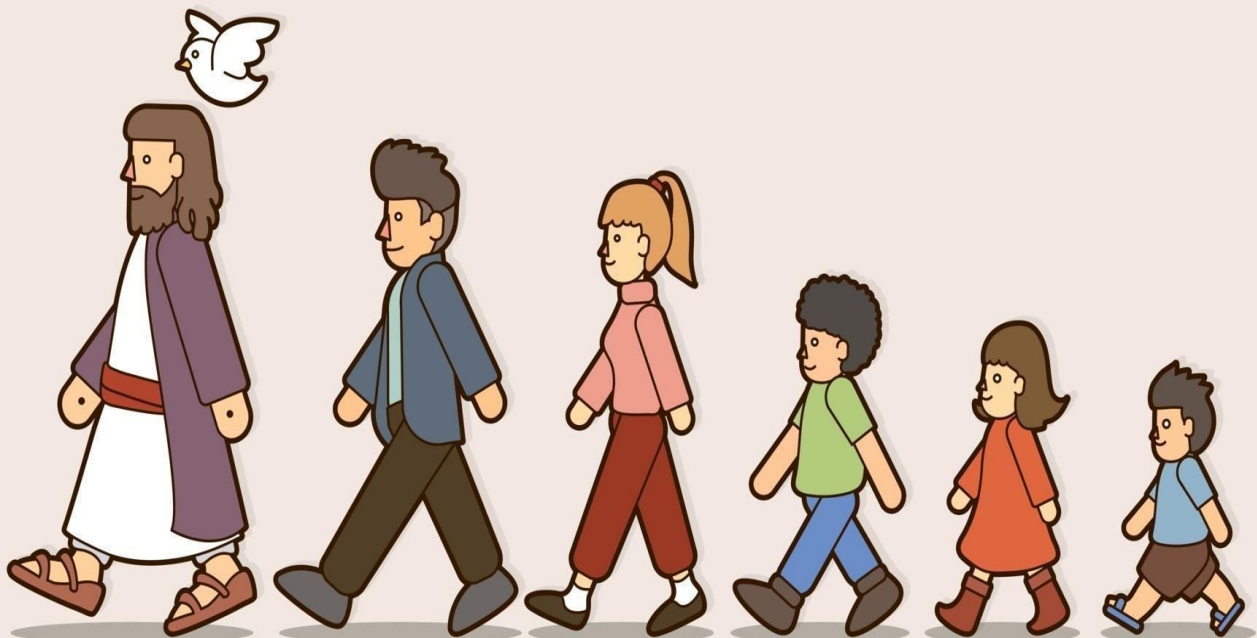


Our 2025 Sunday Morning GPS Class



GPS (Godly Parenting Skills) – David and Vicki Bearden - GPS Room

GPS (Godly Parenting Skills) will start back January 5 as one of our Adult Bible Class offerings at 9:00 Sunday Mornings in the GPS room on the 3rd level of the education wing. Our Lead Minister, David Bearden, will be leading the class on a "Family Walk through the Bible." As the class receives a summary of the books of the Bible, they will also learn God's principles from each book for building stronger marriages and families, and practice fun parenting principles using application games, story time, children's application sheets, and other exercises that will help parents make the Bible come alive for their children. Since the children are already studying Luke on Wednesday nights to prepare for LTC, the Family Walk through the Bible will start with the Gospel of Luke this semester.





SUNDAY January 12

- January 12: **Adult Class— 9:00 a.m.** In the auditorium (Doug Svien is guest teacher for the series on The Gospel According to Luke)
- January 12: **Young Adult Class**—Andy Brewer & Evan McLeroy lead a discussion on “Discipleship” in Room 109
- January 12: **Adult Class**—David Bearden leads a class on Godly Parenting Skills on Family Walk Through the Bible in the GPS Room
- January 12: **Sunday Morning Worship** at 10:00 AM David Bearden will preach the lesson on “Obstacles to Spiritual Growth—Testing Trials”

UPCOMING EVENTS

- January 15: **Wednesday Night Meal at 5:30 p.m.**
male Pie, Sopapilla Cheesecake (recommended price is \$4.00)
- January 14: **Duracells meet at 5:30 in the Family Center**—Bring a covered dish to share



- January 16: **Community Food Pantry in the First Baptist Church Parking Lot** (starts at 5:00 p.m. Come early & help set up—stay and help distribute groceries)



- January 19: **Mission Committee Meets**
Immediately following Worship Service in the Family Center—lunch will be served



- January 25: **Family Movie Night at the Family Center**
Starts at 5:00—bring fruit and/or dessert to share. Pizza will be served. Bring PJ's and a pillow



- January 30: **Night of Casseroles** —Drop off your casserole by 4:45. Stay and help distribute them starting at 5:00



- February 4: **Men's Annual Chili Cookoff**—6:30 p.m. in the Family Center (contact Larry Herrington)





Fred & Cathey Alvord; Billy & Linda Powell; Courtney Clayton; Jody Caudle; Mischelle Oliver; Ricky Caudle; Mildred Buchanan; Karen Bills; Micaela Moore; Becky Norris; Kenneth Wylie, room 309 in Mulberry Manor; Chantelle Mora begins treatment this week; Pam Clayton; Susie Barnes; Jimmy Green; Peggy Rice (mother of Margie Copeland)

Giving Update

| | | | | |
|--------------------------------|-----------|--------------|----------------------------|-----------|
| Contribution 01/05/2025 | \$ | 7,457 | Budget for 2025 | \$ |
| YTD Contribution | \$ | 7,457 | YTD Budget for 2025 | \$ |

Percentage of YTD Contribution Budget



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—1st Grade
*Volunteers See
Courtney McGuire*

Thank you to the Gilley family for hosting the
Youth Group Christmas Party.

Jan. 17—19 Winterfest

Venue: 4616 Stanley Avenue, Fort Worth, TX



Children's Bible Lessons

01/12 Sunday Morning at 9:00



There Will Be Children's Church 1/12/2025

Children's Offering goes to Glenn Moody Bible Fund which provides Bibles for many who do not have one. The Children gave \$4,364.98 in 2024.

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

GSCC

MOVIE NIGHT

1/25
5:00 PM

FAMILY CENTER

Bring fruit or dessert to share. Pizza provided.
Bring a pillow and blanket. Wear PJs if you wish!

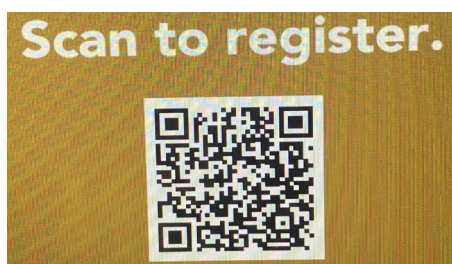


Harding University School of Theology

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