



# GRAHAM STREET CHURCH OF CHRIST

**Rooted - Growing - Reaching**

**January 19, 2025**

## 2025 Goal Areas

2025 is a year to renew our commitment to the Lord's Mission for our Church. God's eternal plan for all of us is that we be conformed to the image of His Son (Rom. 8:29). This Christ-like objective is called discipleship because it parallels the Great Commission of Jesus in Mat. 20:18-20. Individually, and as a church, we should do everything we can to become more like Christ. We have summarized this church mission in 3 words: Rooted, Growing, Reaching. As Disciples of Christ we should be rooted in the Word, Jesus Christ the Logos (Word) of God and Scripture (the word of God). We should be Growing to be like Jesus following his example and teaching and bearing the fruit of the Holy Spirit. And we should be Reaching out to others in loving service to share the Good News of God's Love through Jesus so they too can become a disciple of Christ.

Based on this broad goal for our Church Family, we have focused on 12 Goal Areas for 2025 that can help us renew this commitment to Discipleship. I will work through each goal area to develop its application to discipleship.

### 1. Preach and Teach on "Reaching,"

In the last three years I have focused on "Rooted" and "Growing," it is time for us to think more about "Reaching." How can we make disciples? Churches struggle with this, and one reason is not understanding the meaning of discipleship and thinking in terms of a distorted view of evangelism. To some people evangelism is door knocking, cold calls, selling the church to strangers, passing out tracks and religious literature, calling people sinners in need of repentance, altar calls, and endless verses of "Just As I Am". Evangelism is "goodnewsing," not really a word, but it is announcing the good news! Making Disciples includes sharing the good news of our Savior, but that's not trying to convert someone to your church based on your salesmanship tactics. Discipleship models Christ in reaching out to others in loving service to help them find the fulfilling life of being a disciple of Christ, a Disciple that is Rooted, Growing and Reaching. Well, how do you do that? You ask. By being a disciple yourself who is like Jesus, treating others with love and respect, being gentle and kind and serving their needs, answering their questions about God in practical scriptural ways, and showing them the power of the Holy Spirit in your everyday walk with them. As others see Christ in you, and they hear His words applying to their needs, they will want more, they will want to be His disciples willing to commit in baptism to a death and burial of the old life of sin and raised to walk in newness of a life empowered by the Holy Spirit.

David Bearden



## What Now? Think Like A Missionary!

**In 1990 I was a 35-year-old preacher in a small community of 15,000 at the edge of DFW.** The congregation of 250 had a rich 100 year plus history. By church standards we were a medium size church. Now the community is 70,000+ and a church of 300 is, in many ways, a large church post-Covid. As a young preacher I was reading everything I could on helping a church grow *(as if it were up to me)*. Then I read this.

*“The day of the professional minister is over. The day of the missionary pastor has come. These are words of gentle confirmation, not striking prophecy. A few who read these words of quiet declaration will say they are startled. They are caught up in a futile romantic longing for a church culture. Some may protest—and wonder aloud—if this is startling, bold prophecy will come true. I can assure you that it will not come true in the future—because it has already happened.” (Kennon L. Callahan. Effective Church Leadership, Harper and Row. 1990).*

Callahan was right. When I read his book, it confirmed what I was feeling 34 years ago. A gnawing feeling that us “church folk” lacked a missionary mindset. My training as a “professional minister” was good for caring and feeding the church but left space for engaging God’s mission. At that time, the “come to us approach” coupled with good programs was sustainable with some success. According to Gallup, 68% of Americans belonged to a church, synagogue, or mosque. In 2020, 47%, and as of 2024, 42%. It is mainly because of those who are now religiously unaffiliated (RU). Many of whom, however, still believe in Jesus.

**Think about people who are no longer affiliated with church. You can name several, can’t you?** There are a multitude of factors, but it does not mean they have given up on Jesus. Pray for them by name. Seek opportunities to reach out with a non-judgmental spirit to listen. People need caring relationships not religious pontifications. The core issue is one of trust. Rebuilding trust is about one conversation and confession at a time bathed in honesty and patience. Much more can be said about engaging those who have are not longer present in our version and expectations of church. McKnight and Phillips explore it in detail with candor, wisdom and warnings for the church. Read it if you are only ready to listen, learn and repent. And more specifically, people who have left the church—friends and family. (continued at the top of the next column)

## What Now? Continued

**So, what is a congregation to do? It begins with you!** Before settling into a pew hoping things will get better, here are a few things to do.

1. Pray for a mission spirit in yourself and specific friends.
2. Think and reflect on the mission of God. (See We Are On a Mission from God by Dan Bouchelle, President of Missions Resource Network)
3. Gather a few friends in your home to begin praying for people.
4. Reach out to someone you know who has left church and listen. No lecturing, defending, or rationalizing. Just listen with an open heart.
5. Be grounded in the gospels focus on the life and ministry of Jesus. (See John Mark Comer’s Practicing the Way: Be with Jesus, Become Like Him, Do as he did. (Waterbrook, 2024).

Finally, at least for now—be committed to moving from I to We.



### Month of December 2024

<b>Individuals</b>	<b>483</b>
<b>Families</b>	<b>132</b>
<b>New</b>	<b>14</b>

**Compared to 2023, we saw 1,554 more individuals than we saw in 2024.**



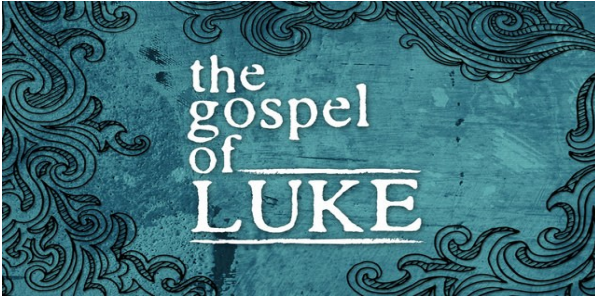
**Basic Needs has an URGENT need for these items: CEREAL, chicken, TUNA, shampoo, deodorant & all other Toiletries are also needed, etc.**

**Your help is appreciated!**

**Let’s Fill The Cart & More!**



**Adult Bible Study Opportunities**



**On Sunday, 01/19/2025, at 9:00 a.m. in the auditorium Hughbert Collier will be back teaching. Hughbert 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, 01/19/2025, 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 19th 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, 1/22/2025, at 6:30 in their respective class locations. "Obstacles to Spiritual Growth—Temptation"**



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

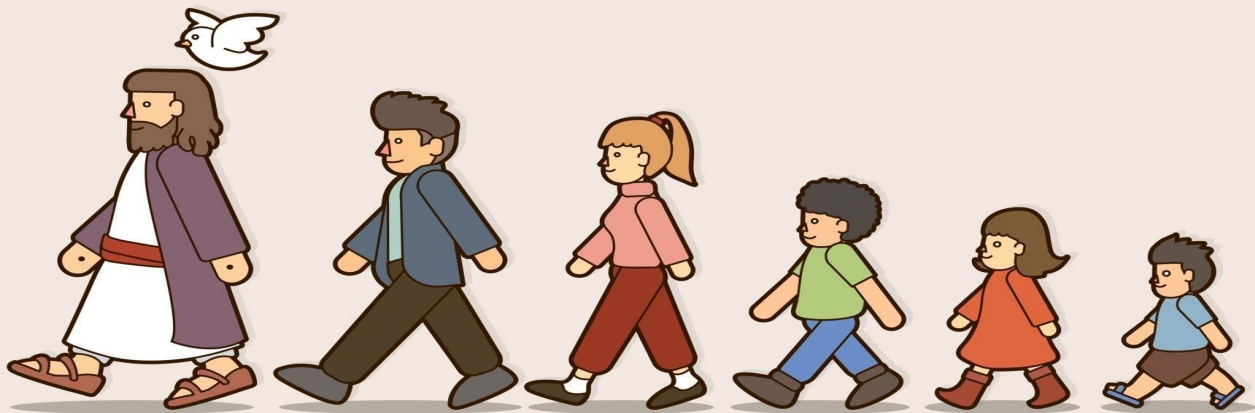


Our 2025 Sunday Morning GPS Class



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

GPS (Godly Parenting Skills) has started back as one of our Adult Bible Class offerings at 9:00 Sunday Mornings in the GPS room on the 3<sup>rd</sup> 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.



Jeffrey Thorn was baptized last week on Sunday, 1/12/2025, by Calvin Arp. You can send Jeffrey cards of encouragement to: 1670 W. Lingleville Hwy, Stephenville, TX 76401



## SUNDAY January 19

- January 19: **Adult Class— 9:00 a.m.** In the auditorium (Hughbert Collier is back to teach the series on The Gospel According to Luke)
- January 19: **Young Adult Class**—Andy Brewer & Evan McLeroy lead a discussion on “Discipleship” in Room 109
- January 19: **Adult Class**—David Bearden leads a class on Godly Parenting Skills on Family Walk Through the Bible in the GPS Room
- January 19: **Sunday Morning Worship** at 10:00 AM David Bearden will preach the lesson on “Obstacles to Spiritual Growth—Temptation”

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



## UPCOMING EVENTS

- January 22: **Wednesday Night Meal** at 5:30 p.m.  
Chicken Pot Pie, Pinto Beans, Salad, Dessert  
(recommended price is \$4.00)
- 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)



Casseroles





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)

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**Giving Update**

<b>Contribution 01/12/2025</b>	<b>\$ 11,170</b>	<b>Budget for 2025</b>	<b>\$</b>
<b>YTD Contribution</b>	<b>\$ 18,627</b>	<b>YTD Budget for 2025</b>	<b>\$</b>

**Percentage of YTD Contribution Budget**

**Texans For Christ Campus Ministry**

We Welcome Back Tarleton

Students on Sunday,

January 19, 2025

First Sunday Bible Study Meeting at Tri-C starts 1/19/2025 at 8:00 p.m.

Also Bible Study on Tuesdays, starting 1/21/2025 at 8:00 p.m.



**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\**



### Children's Bible Lessons

01/12 Sunday Morning at 9:00



### There Will Be Children's Church 1/19/2025

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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.



### Youth Devo

Starts Sunday, January 26th

From 5:00 to 7:00

In the Family Center

Mark Your Calendars for Cross-Connect

Sunday, March 2nd

3:00 p.m. in the Family Center

### 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](http://www.grahamstreetchurch.com)  
[office@grahamstreetchurch.com](mailto:office@grahamstreetchurch.com)

WIFI password: john1335

Address 312 N. Graham St.  
Stephenville, TX 76401



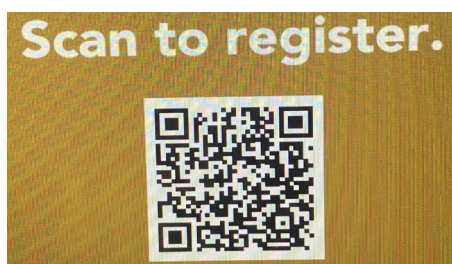


## **Harding University School of Theology**

### **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