



GRAHAM STREET CHURCH OF CHRIST

Rooted - Growing - Reaching

August 23, 2026

Upcoming August Events



Night of Casseroles

Thursday

August 27th

**Drop off your casserole by
4:45—distribution starts at
5:00 and continues until they
are all given away**



**Mark Your
Calendars
The Teacher
Appreciation Dinner
Is Coming Soon
Sunday
September 27
More Details
Coming Soon**



David's Announcement to the Graham Street Church Family

How long should a ministry last? Paul himself received directions from the Holy Spirit of where to go, and when to go, and for how long to stay as was the best timing for the kingdom advancement. Brothers and Sister, my Church Family, it has come time for me to consider this question about my ministry here at Graham Street Church. How long should I stay? When should I leave? This has been one of the most difficult decisions I've ever made in my life.

It has been my honor to serve God here and be a part of the Graham Street Church Family and the Stephenville Community. February 2027 will mark the 10th anniversary of our being asked to join the ministry of the Graham Street Church of Christ. We feel it was God's leading that brought us here, and we feel it is God's leading that brings us to the time of our transition. I have told the Elders that I will retire as the full-time lead minister at the Graham Street Church of Christ at the end of this 2026 year.

I am making this decision free from any negative feelings towards anyone over anything, and it is of my own choice without any pressure from the leadership.

We certainly desire to coordinate a strategy with the Elders for doing what is best for the Lord's work here at the Graham Street Church of Christ during the transition in the remaining months of this year and into next year.

If the Graham Street Elders would like me to work with the church during the interim period while searching for the new minister in 2027, I would be honored to help, but it would be as a consultant, not as the Lead Minister of this church. We would form a contract for the specific services I would provide, for example interim preaching, teaching on transition topics, congregational communication and leadership training. But for now, we have about 5 months left to the end of the year, so let's finish well and do what we can to set things in place for the next generation to be "rooted, growing and reaching" to the glory of God!

After retirement, we plan on staying here in Stephenville and will continue to work in the community service organizations that we are currently involved in, but not as a minister of the Graham Street church. As many of you know I am very involved in our community. I serve as a volunteer Community Chaplain for WIN which allows me to work with several of our community partners like the food pantries, Homelessness HELP, the Hospital, and Foster's Home. I am also a volunteer chaplain for the police department. I also began training Friday to develop a campus chaplaincy program at Tarleton State University. I have also agreed to help the Siburt Institute for Church Growth at ACU with the "Empower and Equip Initiative" to help provide resources for rural churches of Christ throughout the United States. All of these are commitments I have made as a volunteer without pay. The demand for my time by these projects has increased as the successes of the programs have grown. Graham Street church needs a lead minister that can devote more time than I can give, if I am to continue to give my time and skills to these community agencies and nationwide church projects.

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David's Announcement to the Graham Street Church Family (continued)

Vicki and I approach this transition knowing that, as was in our coming here, so in our transition, there are many unknowns, but we know God is with us, and to Him be the glory. We humbly request that we all join together in prayer for each other, and for the whole church, as we go through this transition.

Let us pray:

Dear Lord, our Heavenly Father, it is with humility that we come before you, not to assert our will, but to surrender our will to yours. We know that you have plans for this church, and believe that in your grace, you will lead us through the transitions ahead of us. Help us in the coming months that remain in 2026 to chart a course that will endow the generations to come with the encouragement to meet the challenges they will face as they work to expand the Kingdom of God in Stephenville, throughout Erath County, and to even have an impact on this nation and throughout the world, to your glory, in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.



*Tuesday Sept. 1 (also, Single Ladies)
Noon at the Family Center
Special Speaker: Gary Williams
(Bring a covered dish to share)*

*Widows
and
Widowers
Luncheon*



Matthew Stroup received a call from LST asking if he would go on another mission, this time to Seoul, South Korea.

He said "Yes" and the trip is October 23—November 7th.

Matthew has requested our prayers, both for him and also for the Readers.



People & Churches

Thinking about people and churches . . .

When I was about 8, we had the perfect yard to play whiffle ball in Woodward on

Texas St across from the DQ. Our Barnhart cousins would visit around Fourth of July each year and we would play for hours. A large oak tree was positioned near the driveway and we put home plate under its shade. And then one day we discovered a porcupine in the tree. So much for playing barefoot. Particularly, after throwing rocks, sticks and poking it with a pole. Scared, the porcupine curled up and let the quills fly. I really don't remember how we got it down, but, the quills hurt.

Some people are like porcupines— Interesting but don't get too close. Hugging is out of the question. Leave me alone is a life posture. Love me from a distance...my terms. My under belly is vulnerable, but you'll never see it.

Porcupines are not communal. They spend most of the year living solitary lives, avoiding close contact with others to prevent accidental quilling. However, they do tolerate each other in small groups during freezing winter.

I wonder, are there porcupine churches?

Thanks to Al:
Bible Verses Mentioning the Porcupines:
Isaiah 14:23 – God speaks against Babylon, saying He will turn it into a place owned by the porcupine and marshes of water.

Isaiah 34:11 – A prophecy about the desolation of Edom, noting that the pelican and the porcupine will possess it.

Zephaniah 2:14 – A description of the ruins of Nineveh, where flocks lie down and pelicans and porcupines lodge in the ruined pillars or capitals.

In all three passages, the porcupine is used as a symbol of wild, untamed ruin and abandonment.

Basic Needs News

Basic Needs is on their regular schedule on Thursdays. The donation bin is open. The Food and Clothing Pantries are both open on Thursday mornings from 9:00 to noon.

Over **\$19,000** was collected in the Basic Needs Spring Garage Sale!

This would not be possible without the volunteers and countless donations during the year. Thank you to everyone who helped Basic Needs.

Next Garage Sale is Nov. 1-7



Totals for July 2026

Individuals	548
Families	155
Clothing	125
New Clients	19

We Need Your Plastic Bags!

Love Basket News May 2026 (Dublin)
The Love Basket Served 131 Families and 411 Individuals (11 new families)



Fill The Pantry!

Basic Needs has an **URGENT** need for these items: **Canned Tuna, Canned Chicken**

Your help is very much appreciated!

Let's Fill The Cart



Sunday August 23 Adult Classes at 9:00

- ➡ **Hughbert Collier is offering a class in the auditorium on the Book of Isaiah**
- ➡ **Our Campus Minister, Charlie DeLong is teaching a College Class in Room 109**
- ➡ **David Bearden is Leading a Family Support Group Class in the GPS Room upstairs**

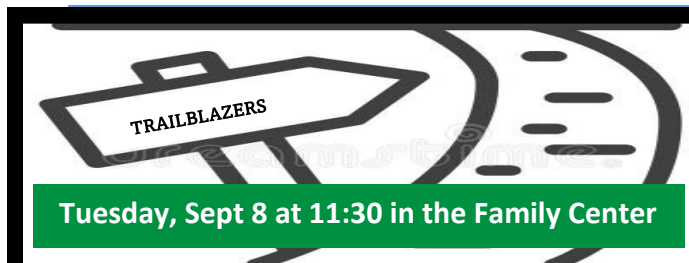


Sunday August 23 Worship at 10:00

- ➡ **David Bearden will be preaching on the topic “Being a Caregiving Church”**

Volunteers are still needed for Children’s Church, Hall Monitors during Bible Class time, teachers, and teacher aides.

There are many opportunities to serve and your assistance would be greatly appreciated.



**Game Night
Every Tuesday from 6:00 to 8:00 in the
Family Center
See Le Jones**



**Soup Kitchen
This Thursday
From 5:30 to 7:00**



Lois Henson broker her foot; Denise Kribbs and her family, Sheila Elston and her family, Randal Elston and his family, over the loss of Laquita Elston this week; Margie Phillips, who is now on hospice; Mischelle Oliver; Craig Barnes; Quincy Hough; Marilyn Schulze is in Good Tree Memory Care; Darell Belcher; Vincent Lopez; Billy & Linda Powell; Mildred Buchanan; Dwain & Karen Bills; Kenneth Wylie; Theresa Young; Ron Wilhite; Grady King; Mary Havens; Jody Caudle; Ronnie & Carol Moring; Darrell Tucker;

Giving Update

Contribution 08/16/2026	\$ 8,193	Budget for 2026	\$ 13,500
Contribution YTD	\$374,979	YTD Budget for 2026	\$ 445,500

Percentage of 2026 YTD Contribution Budget 84.17%

Tri-C Parsonage Remodel Budget = \$75,000 \$24,250 Collected Percentage: 33.65%

Texans For Christ Campus Ministry

**Charlie DeLong is leading a college class on Sunday Mornings
at 9:00, in Room 109**

Bible Study at Tri-C on Sunday evenings

Tuesday Worship at Tri-C on Tuesday evenings

1st T4C Tuesday Lunch is 9/1

Campus Ministry Retreat is 9/25—9/27



Celebrate Recovery

Monday Evenings, 6:30 p.m.

Family Center



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



**Trailblazers Meet 11:30, September 8, in the Family Center
Luncheon—Special Guest Speaker Coach Sterling Doty**



Special Guest Speaker: Sterling Doty
Athletic Director and Head Football Coach

● Stephenville High School (2019–present)

- **2021 Season** – Led the Yellow Jackets to a perfect **16–0** record and a **Class 4A Division I state championship**.
- **2025 Season** – Another perfect **16-0** season, capped with a **10–0 shutout of Kilgore** at AT&T Stadium, earning a second state title.
- **2025 Academic Achievement** – The team also posted a **4.0 GPA** and won the **Hatchell Cup** for combining championship football with academic excellence.



The Trailblazers cordially invite all parents with children interested in participating in sports to attend this luncheon to hear Coach Doty.

Join us TUESDAY, 9/08, AT 11:30
Lasagna Meal Provided bring sides and desserts
TRAILBLAZERS



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 in
their usual locations at
9:00 a.m.



There **WILL BE** Children's Church
Sunday, 8/23/2026



The Children's Teacher
Appreciation Committee

Will Meet Sunday
8/23

See Megan for details

Jr. Cross Connect, Sept. 20th from
3:30 to 6:00 in the Family Center

Youth Group News

August 30th from 5:00 to 7:00

Pool Party at the home of
John & Mary Jean Terrill

Meet at the church and ride in the
church van.

(Hosts needed for future Youth Devo
Contact Blake or Teryn if you can help)

Meeting Times Sunday

Classes 9:00 a.m.

Worship 10:00 a.m.

Wednesday Class 6:30

Church Office Hours

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

Phone 254-965-4510

Basic Needs: 254-965-5552

Website/Email

www.grahamstreetchurch.com
office@grahamstreetchurch.com

WIFI password: john1335

YouTube Channel Graham Street Church of
Christ—Stephenville Tx

Address 312 N. Graham St.
Stephenville, TX 76401

Care News For instant prayer and illness
updates: office@grahamstreetchurch.com