



GRAHAM STREET

CHURCH OF CHRIST

Rooted - Growing - Reaching

Ashes and Lent

I mean no disrespect by the title to a very special time in the Christian calendar, but I have been asked by some from our Church of Christ heritage about the meaning of Ash Wednesday and Lent practiced by not only Catholics, but by many other Christian traditions. It reminded me of my daughters asking me years ago, “Dad, what is this big deal about ashes and lent?” Their Christian heritage in our household had made them more familiar with fireplace ashes and dryer lint than the significance of a worldwide Christian tradition of preparation for Easter. Frankly, I had to flex my Church History brain and pull some books off the shelves to answer them. Today, you can easily go on the internet and probably find a better answer than what I will give here, but mine is geared towards answering those from our branch of the Reformation tree, in what we refer to as the Restoration Movement that has exercised great effort to do “Bible things in Bible ways,” sometimes with harsh judgement on those who added exercises not found in the Bible without our understanding their meaning or intent.

Let’s begin with Ash Wednesday, where ashes, which were traditionally the product of burning palm branches from Palm Sunday the year before, are applied to the forehead in the shape of a cross. The words, “Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return” and “Repent and believe in the Gospel” are often spoken as a part of the mass or ceremony. The ashes and these words represent that the person is acknowledging sins and showing remorse. This connects with the Bible tradition of repentance with ashes found in 2 Sam. 13:19; Esther 4:1; Job 2:8; Dan. 9:3; Mat. 11:21. The tradition of Ash Wednesday dates to the year 1091.

Ash Wednesday is the beginning of Lent 40 days before Easter, not counting Sundays (so technically 46 days beginning Wednesday, February 22 and running through April 8 this year). The tradition seems to be traced back to the idea that as the Winter daylight hours get longer moving towards Spring, the extra time should be spent in drawing closer to God. It is a time for prayer and fasting, repentance, moderation, and self-denial. The 40 days connects to several instances in the Bible when 40 Days were used by God for preparation. For example, before Moses received the law on the mountain, (Ex. 24:18; 34:28; Deut. 9); the spies in Canaan (Num.13-14); the days and nights of rain for the flood (Gen. 7-8); Elijah traveling to the mountain of God (1 Kings 19:8); and Jesus fasted in the wilderness for 40 days before his temptation (Mat. 4; Mark 1; Luke 4). During this period of time Christians are encouraged to remember Jesus’ suffering for us on the cross and his victory over sin and death in the resurrection. Lent is never mentioned or commanded in the Bible, but the tradition of this observance dates back to the Canons of Nicaea in the year 325. While you don’t have to practice this tradition, respect those who do, and realize we could all use a little more repentance and remembrance of the call of the Gospel.

David Bearden



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Children's Ministry



9:00am Class

Children's Church Today

Volunteers See Kasey Reed

Children's offering goes to the:

The Caraway's Mission Fund

LTC Meeting:

THIS SUNDAY immediately after services In room 109



**Next Meeting:
March 14th**



Soup Kitchen

Thursday, March 9th

5:00 PM

YOUTH MINISTRY

9:00 AM Class

Next Cross Connect: March 5th in Tolar



Tarleton Students Ministry



Join us weekly for worship, free lunch, Bible study, and more! Scan the QR code to see how to get involved!

PRAYER REQUESTS

George Glover;

Bill and Gloria Scott;

Ronnie & Carol Moring; Billy

Powell; Martha Fredrickson-

Knee Replacement Surgery;

Charles Allen, former member,

has been placed on hospice



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**Donations @ Green Street
Workroom:
Mon. & Thurs.
Open: Thursday
9:30am - 12:00 pm.**

For any hurt,
habit or hang-up.
Mon. 6:30pm (FC)
The Landing,
CR for teens



HOW ARE WE DOING?

Contribution.....	\$16,988
Budget.....	\$11,435
YTD Contribution.....	\$93,538
YTD Budget.....	\$91,480

UPCOMING EVENTS

LTC Meeting

February 26 After Church
Room 109

Youth Boys Etiquette Dinner

February 26 @ 5:30pm

Foster's Home Auction

March 4 @9:00am
1779 N Graham St

VBS Meeting

March 5 After Church
Room 109

Youth Cross Connect

March 5 in Cisco

Soup Kitchen

March 9

NO WEDNESDAY CLASSES

March 15

Basic Needs Totals

Totals of Jan, 2023

Over 40 – 143
Individuals – 388
Families – 109
New – 11

Yearly totals of 2022

Over 40 – 1,516
Individuals – 4,078
Families – 1,098
New – 108

LTC PRACTICE
EVERY
WEDNESDAY AT
6:30 PM IN THE
ORANGE ROOM

Volunteers Welcome

Sunday Morning Classes

Room 109: Grace in the Gray
discussion class.

Host: Taylor and Whitney Holt

Room 220: A women's group
study of Ruth

Host: Tisha Young

GPS Room: Study of Family
Commitment

Host: David Bearden

Auditorium: A study of Romans

Host: Hughbert Collier

Meeting Times

Sunday Classes

9:00a.m. Class

10:00a.m. Worship

Wednesday Classes & Meal

Meal: 5:30pm Family Center

Class: 6:30pm Main Building

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

Care News

For instant prayer and illness

updates:

office@grahamstreetchurch.com

WEDNESDAY NIGHT MENU

Wednesday March 1st

Beefy Noodle Casserole, Broccoli, Salad, Dessert