



GRAHAM STREET CHURCH OF CHRIST

Rooted - Growing - Reaching

December 15, 2024

Family/Children Christmas Party

Graham Street
Church of Christ

CHRISTMAS
Party

DECEMBER 15TH

5:00 Sunday evening

*Food, games, music, and a
service project*

**SOUP WILL BE PROVIDED.
PLEASE BRING A SIDE OR
DESSERT TO SHARE.**

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**

**Men's & Ladies'
Wednesday Night Class**

The Wednesday Night Adult Men's and Women's Classes will discuss the Sunday Morning Sermon preached that week in the series "Obstacles to Spiritual Growth"

<u>Date</u>	<u>Topic</u>
12/18/2024	Inferiority (12/25 No Classes)

**Welcome
New Members**

Jefferson Carswell, son of Josh & Michele, was baptized on Wednesday, 12/11/2024. You can send him notes of encouragement to: 1628 CR 461, Stephenville, TX 76401



**Preaching In
The
21st Century**

It should not surprise anyone that there is a preacher shortage as well as youth and children’s ministers in Churches of Christ in North America.

It is, however, not just my tribe, but others as well (Baptist, Methodist, Presbyterian, Bible Churches, and more).

As someone who does ministry through Hope Network I can attest to the truth that my friend and HOPE Network partner Carlus Gupton has said that it could take up to two years to find a preacher whether your a small or large congregation. Matt Dabbs asked me to post a response to Carlus’ post.

The first three quarters of this year, Hope Network has done ministry with 250+ churches and with 400+ church leaders. It is time that the church raises up its own ministers in collaboration with creative theological education.

I am not discouraged, rather the time requires us to adapt for the church to be the church, not dependent on professional ministers per se’. Why do you think there is a minister shortage in Churches of Christ?

More on this later. In the meantime, remember, let us be who claim to be—a priesthood of believers (1 Peter 2.9).

Blessings, GDK

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.



Love Basket Totals

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

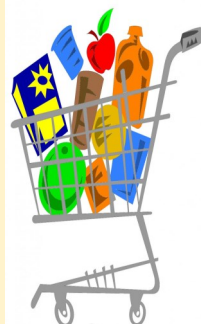


Month of November 2024

Individuals	413
Families	112
New	9

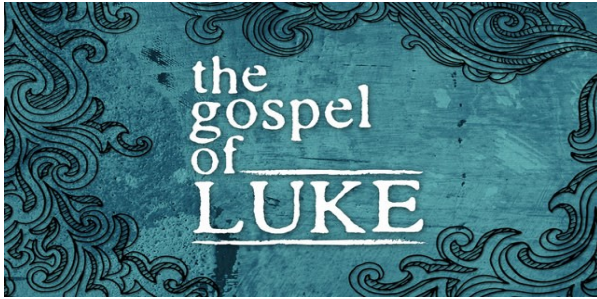
**Comparing the Basic Needs October 2024
Numbers to October 2023:**

253 More Individuals 65 More Families
18 More New Families. The numbers just keep growing



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!



Adult Bible Study Opportunities

At 9:00 a.m. on Sunday morning, Hughbert Collier will be continuing an in-depth series on the New Testament book of Luke. You don't want to miss it. These are important lessons about the life and teaching of Jesus.



Young Adult Class

Sunday mornings 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 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

The Fall Semester has class discussions on the Sunday Sermon Series:

"Overcoming Obstacles to Spiritual Growth." This week on Wednesday, the classes will discuss **"Inferiority as an Obstacle to Spiritual Growth"**



Sunday's Sermon Will Be Led by Blake Thomasson



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 15

- ▶ December 15: **Adult Class**—In the auditorium (Hughbert Collier is teaching a series on The Gospel According to Luke)
- ▶ December 15: **Young Adult Class**—Andy Brewer & Evan McLeroy lead a discussion on “Discipleship” in Room 109
- ▶ December 15: **Adult Class**—GPS Class (Godly Parenting Skills) is on Winter Break—please go to Adult Class in auditorium until this class starts back up in January
- ▶ December 15: **Children’s Classes—9:00 a.m.** All classes will be held in their usual classrooms
- ▶ December 15: **Sunday Morning Worship** at 10:00 AM Blake Thomasson will preach the lesson
- ▶ December 15: **Family/Children’s Christmas Party**—5:00 in the Family Center (see Page 1 for details)

UPCOMING EVENTS

- ▶ December 18: **Wednesday Night Meal** - at 5:00 in the Family Center—recommended price is \$4.00 per person
Menu: Frito Pie



- ▶ December 18: **Kids chorus will sing at Laurel Glen at 6:00pm.** Students 3rd grade & up who wish to be in the Christmas chorus will be meeting Wednesdays @ 6:00pm in the Bridge room.
- ▶ December 18: **Caroling for the Children’s Ministry, Youth Group and Adults**—Or, if you prefer, there will be a combined Adult Class in Room 109 at 6:30—**If you plan to participate in the Caroling, adults meet at 6:00 in the Family Center—let Le know if you are going so groups can be coordinated**

- ▶ December 19: **Night of Casseroles** (drop off by 4:45—stay and help distribute starting at 5:00 until they are all distributed)



- ▶ December 19: **Community Food Pantry** (starts at 5:00—come early to help set up—stay to help distribute groceries)



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 12/08/2024 \$ 12,291 **Budget for 2024** \$ 12,900

YTD Contribution \$ 603,732 **YTD Budget for 2024** \$ 632,100

Percentage of YTD Contribution Budget 95.51%



Texans For Christ Campus Ministry

Thank you to Bob & Darla Doty
For hosting the Campus Ministry
Christmas Party



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*



Dec. 14—Light Up The Night

Dec. 18—Christmas Caroling (meet at 6:00)

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 Be Children's Church 12/15

Family/Children's Christmas Party on
December 15, 5:00 in the Family Center.

See Page 1 for details.

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



Wednesday Night Meal

Frito Pie at 5:00 p.m.

\$4.00 recommend price

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



The Tradition of Advent

We are now in the Advent Season. In our Restoration heritage of the Church of Christ (to go back to the Bible for the authority of our church practices, which is sometimes summarized in the theme, “speak where the Bible speaks and be silent where the Bible is silent”) we have put little emphasis, or none, on Advent traditions. In fact, in many congregations, it will never be mentioned, and some would even teach that it is wrong or sinful to do so since it is never mentioned in the Bible as a practice of the early church. But most Christian denominations honor the tradition of Advent in some form or another. So, it wouldn’t hurt for us to know a little more about its meaning and intent.

The word Advent is taken from the Latin word *adventus*, which is used for the Greek word *parousia* in the New Testament for the “coming” of Christ, both His first and second. Advent is a season of looking back to the coming of Christ at his birth and looking forward to His return. It lasts four Sundays leading up to Christmas. This year, Advent begins Sunday, Nov. 27, and ends on Saturday, Dec. 24th. The history of Advent dates as far back as 480 and has been observed in a variety of ways, but here are some general practices.

The observance of Advent has generally had a mix of emotions and practices, running from great joy over Jesus’ birth, our salvation, the hope of the resurrection, and Jesus’ return to take us with Him to our eternal home with God; to the serious introspection and soul searching in connection with preparation for the Lord’s Return and Judgement. This includes joyful worship and celebration of praise, prayerfulness, and even fasting. The Sundays have traditionally dealt with Bible readings, prayers, and songs focused on major themes dealing with both the birth and return of Christ. Many church worship services and home observances include the lighting of candles. The candles are often part of an Advent wreath. The ever-green branches of the wreath represent eternal life made possible by Jesus’ first and second coming. There are traditionally four candles. A new candle is lit on each Sunday leading up to Christmas. The colors vary according to church traditions, but the candles most commonly represent hope, faith, joy (peace) and love. The four candles are often the same color, white, blue, or purple. Often there will be a fifth candle placed in the middle, which may be larger, and is most often white to represent Christ, and it is lighted on Christmas Day.

There is no command to observe Advent traditions, but for some, these traditions, in some form or another, have helped them focus on the spiritual during this season, rather than the commercialization and stress.

David Bearden

