



GRAHAM STREET

CHURCH OF CHRIST

Rooted - Growing - Reaching

“Dealing with Persecution”

I am finding that our study in GPS class on “Family Commitment” and my sermons on Sunday morning on the “Beatitudes” are running together. The series on the Beatitudes will end with, “Blessed are those who are persecuted” (Mat. 5:10-12) and our next topic of discussion in GPS is “Bless those who persecute you” (Rom. 12:14). Both of these are completely contrary to what the world teaches us.

Jesus seems to be saying instead seeing persecution as a curse, see yourself as blessed. If the reason we are persecuted is for “righteousness’ sake,” in other words we are suffering opposition from those opposed to the righteousness that comes through the name of Jesus, we should consider ourselves among the blessed who have stood up for righteousness. Or, if the reason we face persecute in the form of insults to our name because we are trying to do the righteousness of Christ, we should consider ourselves like those who have gone before us who were willing to suffer for a cause that was greater than themselves. Jesus also taught us, “You have heard that it was said, ‘Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be children of your Father in heaven.” (Mat. 5:43-45)

Paul seems to be developing Jesus’ teaching in what he wrote to the Roman church, “Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse” (Rom. 12:14) Instead of hating and cursing those who persecute us, Jesus and Paul are telling us we should love and bless. Really, how do you do this? It is not easy, but it begins in the family. First consider what it is saying to our church family when we find ourselves dealing with a brother or sister who is upset with us, disagreeable, negative and critical. I know this is a long way from what most would regard as persecution, but if we can’t be committed enough to our church family to continue to love and pray for such people, how will we ever learn to do it with people who are unbelievers? And that brings us to the family in the home, if we can’t be committed enough to our family members to work things out within the family when we disagree, how will we ever love and pray for and bless those outside our family who persecute and insult us?

Where do we start to learn this practice? It starts with family leadership. Peter writes about following the example of Christ in dealing with suffering in the letter of 1 Peter. In the church family the Elders are instructed in the books of 1 Timothy, Titus, and 1 Peter to be men of patience and not being argumentative, but rather loving the disagreeable brothers into submission. And in our homes, helping our children learn how to deal with persecution begins with godly parents who set the example, to bless and not curse!



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Children's Ministry



9:00am Class

Children's Church Today

Room 109 "Volunteers See Kasey Reed

Children's offering goes to the:
Glen Moody Fund to purchase Bibles.

VBS Meeting: THIS SUNDAY
immediately after services

In room 109



Next Meeting:
Feb 16th
Valentines Banquet



Night of 100 Casseroles
Thursday, February 23

Casseroles are given away the
last Thursday of each month.

Bring your casseroles to the
Family Center between 4-5pm.
Distribution starts at 5:00 p.m.

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;

The William's Family; Patty Jones;

Martha Fredrickson



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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.....	\$13,561
YTD Contribution.....	\$60,056
Budget.....	\$11,435
Budget YTD.....	\$68,610

Upcoming Events

VBS Meeting

TODAY February 12
Following Services

Duracell's Valentines Banquet

February 16 @ 5:30PM
Family Center

Father Daughter Banquet

February 17 @ 6PM
Family Center

Men's Chili Supper

February 21 @ 6PM
Family Center

Night of 100 Casseroles

February 23

Youth Cross Connect

March 5 in Tolar

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

The Loft: A women's group
study of Ruth

Host: Tisha Young

GPS Room: Family
Communication

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

February 15 @ 5:30PM

Chicken Potato Casserole, Veggie Blend, Salad, Dessert