



September 6, 2020

**Sunday
Bible Classes**

www.facebook.com/swcocada
www.swcocada.com

**Morning Worship
10:00 a.m.**

www.facebook.com/swcocada
www.swcocada.com

**Tuesday
Ladies Bible Class:
CANCELLED**

Wednesday
www.facebook.com/swcocada
www.swcocada.com

Elders
Jeff Butler
Scott Estes
Greg Hatton
David Hendricks
Richard Howard
Brent Lowe
Butch Platt

Ministers
Brian Lewis
David Dirrim
Thorin Turner
Kyle Wilson

Secretary
Dana Chilcoat

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The Southwesterner

Spiritual Heirlooms

In a time where people talk about leaving the church or what is wrong with the church, it is good to remember there are many good things about the church. I read the article below by Dan Bouchelle of Missions Resource Network last week, and I thought it would be good to share it with you. He writes about some of those good things. I will share the first four this week and the last four next week.

-Brian

For over 30 years, I've been hearing that Churches of Christ have an identity crisis. I've heard endless self-critiques. I've added to them myself. We've explored our weaknesses and their origins obsessively. It is not hard to find defenders or critics of our heritage. But wise self-awareness - that is more elusive.

Defensive denial is childish. Self-loathing is adolescent. Both are harmful. Having a healthy sense of both your strengths and weaknesses is mature and helpful. While I don't think I am naïve about the flaws of my spiritual ancestry, I believe it is important to affirm the good that has been passed down to us. Here are some heirlooms from my heritage in Churches of Christ for which I am thankful and that I wish to preserve regardless of what comes next.

High view of Scripture: While most Christian groups claim a respect for scripture and speak of being "biblical," Churches of Christ have been unusually concerned to follow scripture as our guide in all things. While we may not have always had the best methods of Bible interpretation, we have consistently trusted that the Bible is the inspired, authoritative, reliable, and true Word of God for the church in every age. We've done that while managing to avoid divisive arguments about "infallibility" and "inerrancy." Our habit of "using Bible words for Bible things" has served us well. In addition, we have believed that the Bible was understandable to the common Christian and that every believer should know and live out the message of scripture.

Sacramental practice of baptism and communion: We have placed great emphasis on baptism and the Lord's Supper. No doubt, at times, this has reflected little more than conformity to a presumed pattern. But there has also been a sense that God was actually doing something in our rituals. Baptism and the Lord's Supper don't just dramatize an inward "spiritual" reality, they are practices in which we encounter God. They are communal and participatory. They require bodies and presence. They push back against merely mental models of faith which can be reduced to content which can be put entirely online or captured in a podcast.

High view of church: In a western world of excessive individualism, with an emphasis on a "personal Lord and Savior," Churches of Christ have maintained an unusual emphasis on being "members of the church." God shows up when we gather. Participation matters. We've expected the church to be distinct from the culture. We've expected to care for each other and to be family. While we've picked up many consumer attitudes that have weakened these practices, we have historically valued the local church. Each church is theoretically free to follow God's leading directly. The local church is the expression of God's people that matters most, not some higher ecclesiastical body, theological elite, or clergy class.

The priesthood of all believers: This common value of all protestant churches took on even greater emphasis among Churches of Christ. Not only did we believe that every disciple could talk directly to God, but we've also affirmed that every baptized believer is called to be a priest and minister of reconciliation and mission. We've insisted on avoiding a special clergy class, even for full-time professional ministers. That has caused some problems, but it also has meant that all of God's people can minister, even performing baptisms and serving the Lord's Supper. This conviction has been muted in practice by limitations placed on women, but this was a feature of how we dealt with gender and not a matter of clerical/laity status.

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SWCOCADA

CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) PLAN UPDATES

There are now three ways you can join us for worship on Sunday mornings at 10:00.

- Mask-optional service in the auditorium
- Mask-required service (live on video) in the fellowship building
- Live streamed service online

On Wednesdays we will meet at 7 pm for a Bible class in the auditorium. This lesson will also be live streamed. There will be no other classes.

All Bible classes except the teen class are available at [facebook.com/swcocada](https://www.facebook.com/swcocada) or [youtube.com/swcocada](https://www.youtube.com/swcocada).

Sunday: Baby Bible Class, Preschool Bible Class, Kids Bible Class, Adult Bible Class - Study of Luke taught by Jeff Butler
Facebook Live Young Adult Class - David Dirrim
Youth Group Zoom Night Bible Study - Brian Lewis

Wednesday: Auditorium Class at 7:00 p.m.

Servers Scheduled for 10 am Sunday, September 6th:

Song Leader - Scott Estes
Opening Prayer - Alan Eck
Closing Prayer - Glendel Hatton
Communion Thoughts - Dusty Dennis
Attendance Counting - Hunter Nickell
Safety Team Walk - Bart Conley & Caleb Estes
Safety Team Camera - Russell Neill
Service Coordinator - Jake Williams
Sound Booth - Ried Duncan & Garrett Hatton
Elder of the Month - Greg Hatton

On Wednesdays we will have a new evening class theme: **Passages That Give Courage and Hope.** We will have various speakers from Southwest including our ministers, elders and some others who will be presenting thoughts from passages that are significant to them. These lessons will continue to be live in the auditorium as well as online. Please join us as we all seek to grow together in Christ.

Family News & Updates

Jessica Lee, Glenn and Sue Ogle's granddaughter, will have surgery on Tuesday at Integris Baptist Medical Center in Oklahoma City. Please keep her and her family in your prayers.

Our sympathy goes to Nell and Leon Dennis and Vicki Patton on the passing of Nell's sister and Vicki's mother, Z.D. Parker. She passed away on Wednesday and her service was held Friday. Please keep Nell, Vicki, & their families in your prayers.

Congratulations to the proud grandparents, Tom and Geneva Denson, on the birth of their new granddaughter, Chaney JoRaye Denson! She was born Thursday, September 3rd to Todd and Sophie Denson and weighed 7 lbs. 10 oz. and was 20½ inches long.

The church office will be close Monday in observance of the Labor Day holiday.

The Yellow House will pass out food on Monday, September 21st from 8-10 am. Workers this month are: Ted and Bobbie Rutherford, Glenda Lillard, Chris Kaiser, Lynnette Bryant, Madonna Tidwell, and Wendell and Judy Voto.

Meals On Wheels week is September 21st - 25th.

EEM: Ben Mereness from Eastern European Missions will be speaking to us on Wednesday, September 23rd.

Please Continue to Pray For: Connie McKinney, Jessica Lee, Katie Meaders, Patsy Hill, Verna Cannon, Johnnie Sing, Alyene Sims, Joe Don Harrison, Joe Medlock, Jim Begin, Jeannie Wingard, Mildred West, Cherry Bennett, Shirley Gatewood, Shirley Perry, Sherry Price, Pattie Mitchell, Debbie Harber, Donna Love, Thayne Consequellos, Joy Crowell, Lewis & Lea Crain, Warner Fleck, Jessie Glover, Randy Wilson, Paul & Shirley Love, Steve, Jana & Stacey Stewart, & Bill Scott.



Week of August 30th
\$12,304
Weekly Budget
\$12,821
[swcocada.com/giving](https://www.swcocada.com/giving)

September Birthdays & Anniversaries

08 Leon Hughey, Levi Jonka,
Angel Jackson, Pam Kite
09 Joy Crowell, Bob Fennell
10 Sharon Sherrell
11 Scott Estes
12 Darrell Geiger

Pray For Our Service Men:

Daniel Hataway, Clay Patterson,
Michale Perry, Chanse Alexander,
Dawson Hendricks, Frank Holsapple
Jr., & Jonathon Wingard.

If you have a family member or know of someone you would like to add to our prayer list let the office know.