



The *Southwesterner*

VOLUME XLIX | NUMBER 1

THE HOME WE LONG FOR

It seems like each year there are more books being written about why people are leaving church. One of 2023's most popular was *The Great Dechurching: Who's Leaving, Why Are They Going, and What Will It Take to Bring Them Back?* Although much of the book deals with the questions mentioned in the title, the authors frequently return to point out what makes the church and our worship assemblies so important for our relationship with God. One of the writers, Jim Davis, makes this great analogy about our gatherings.

"When I lived overseas, every so often I would go onto a US military base. Immediately when you pass the gates, you are on US soil. All the signs are in English, the fashion is American, and you begin to see great dining establishments like Pizza Hut and Burger King. You pay in American dollars, and you see glimpses of home in things like free refills, American architecture, and police cars that make the 'correct' siren sound. When on base, we were a small group of very different people far from home but, in a way, home at the same time. That is what the Sunday gathering is for us. We come together as a diverse group of people feeling acutely that we are not home—a people who, in some mysterious way, leave the world we live in to worship the King of our new kingdom. And, for a moment, even if we aren't truly there, we can taste the home we long for. Our Sunday gathering has a centering effect on us, and to the degree we make the gathering a priority in our lives, we will taste our true home and flourish as citizens of heaven on earth."

As we gather again this week, I pray that you will be blessed by the reunion and long even more for the home we will all share with the God who loves us.

- Brian

January 7, 2024



Elders

Jeff Butler

Greg Hatton

David Hendricks

Richard Howard

Brent Lowe

Butch Platt

Ministers

Brian Lewis

David Dirrim

Thorin Turner

Kyle Wilson

Secretary

Dana Chilcoat

Family Matters

Please keep these people in your prayers:

Charles Cannon had a procedure done Thursday in Ada.

Leon Hughey's foot surgery will be rescheduled for sometime in January.

Stephen and Carolyn Purvis have moved to Ada recently from Durant. Stephen has been having some health issues and was recently diagnosed with cancer and will be starting treatments soon.

Sierra Trekell has been struggling with some health issues at this time.

Harley O'Neal, granddaughter of Butch and Denise Platt, and her family had a car wreck a few weeks ago on the way back home from their trip.

Susan Pickle will be having a heart cath procedure done on January 15th in Shawnee. **She is in need of a ride to and from the procedure.** She will not know the time of the procedure until January 12th. If anyone is able to help with this request, please call Susan or the church office.

Our sympathy goes out to Will and Amanda Lampkin and their family on the passing of Will's uncle, Travis Henderson, who passed away December 25th. His services were held Wednesday.

We will miss the Neill family here at Southwest. Russell, Kristin, and Natalee will be moving to Shawnee soon. Russell will also be resigning as a deacon here at Southwest due to the move. They will be attending the Highland church of Christ in Tecumseh. We wish them well on this next chapter in their lives.

1 Thessalonians 5:17

"Pray without ceasing."

Please continue to pray for...

Leon Hughey, James Byers, Jessie Nickell, Myrtie Clarke, Mary Barrett, Nash Gilliam, Paula Hatton, Lea Crain, Betty Gerth, Barbara Hataway, Barbara Cannon, Sherry Price, Floyd Kaiser, Dona Pippen, Barbara Lewis, Randy Hall, Ronald Trent, Sue Silkey, Shirley Love, Gerald Joliff, Katie Meaders, Johnnie Sing, Cherry Bennett, Shirley Perry, Pattie Mitchell, Debbie Harber, Warner Fleck, Randy Wilson, Thayne Consequellos, and Steve, Jana & Stacey Stewart.

Happenings

Church Events & Announcements

Tuesday Morning Ladies Class will resume on **January 9th** at 10am in the fellowship building.



The Wednesday Night for the Master meal will be at 5:45pm on **January 10th** in the fellowship building.



The Golden Doers lunch will be Sunday, **January 14th**, in the fellowship building following our morning services. If you are 60 years or older, please join us.

Ladies Prayer Group meets on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of each month at 4pm. They will meet next on **January 14th**.

The Yellow House will hand out food this month on Monday, **January 22nd**, from 8am - 10am. Helpers this month are: Scott Estes, Tommy Myers, Carolyn Preble, Glenda Lillard, Don & Pam Kite, Donna Duncan, Mark & Cindy Coleman, & Jan Manuel. **Note for helpers: The food will be picked up and sacked on Wednesday, January 17th. Please let Chuck know if you will not be able to help this month.**

Wedding Showers

All ladies are invited to a wedding shower for Taylor Wilson and Terrell Morgan at 3pm on Sunday, January 21st, in the fellowship building.

They are registered at Amazon.

All ladies are invited to a wedding shower for David Lewis and Paige Dewberry at 3pm on Sunday, January 28th, in the fellowship building.

They are registered at Walmart and Target.

18 UPCOMING EVENTS

January at a Glance

- 01 New Year's (Office Closed)
- 01-05 Meals On Wheels Week
- 02 SW Widower's Breakfast
- 07 AWTG at Westside
- 09 Ladies Bible Class Resumes
- 10 WNFM Meal
- 11 College Meal/Devo (G. Lillard)
- 12-14 WinterQuest at Pettijohn
- 14 Golden Doers Lunch,
Ladies Prayers Group
- 17 Yellow House Pick Up Food
- 18 Col. Meal/Devo (R & M Smith)
- 21 Wilson Wedding Shower,
Youth Group Meal/Fellowship
- 22 Yellow House
- 25 College Meal/Devo (Conley)
- 28 Lewis Wedding Shower,
Ladies Pr Grp, Youth Meal/Fel



TEENS AND YOUTH

January 7th

AWTG at Westside

January 12th - 14th

WinterQuest Retreat
at Pettijohn Springs



January 11th

Meal & Devo
(Glenda Lillard)

January 18th

Meal & Devo at the SBC
(Ryan & Macy Smith)

Birthdays of the Month

- 01/07 Steve Black,
Lisa Garrett
- 01/08 Leon Dennis
- 01/10 Chevy Riley
- 01/11 Lane Garrett,
Jana Stewart
- 01/12 Barbara Cannon,
Raygn Tinsley,
April Wade
- 01/13 Ted Rutherford

Happy Anniversary

01/10 Darrell & Cindy Geiger

who's your ONE?

PRAY FOR OUR SERVICE MEN & WOMEN

Heaven Tamayo Hunter Wilson
Clay Patterson
Josh Higginbottom
Michale Perry Clay Wilson Jr.
Frank Holsapple Jr.

Bible Classes

SUNDAY MORNINGS

Adults

Jason Vanlandingham
Auditorium

Jeff Butler

2nd Corinthians
Room 100

David Dirrim

Lessons From the Parables
Room 111

College Group

Kyle Wilson
Room 107

Youth Group (7th-12th Grades)

Thorin Turner
Room 101

Elementary

5th - 6th grades: Room 104

2nd - 4th Grades: Room 102

K - 1st Grade: Room 105

Preschool

3's & 4's: Room 112

Toddlers: Room 114

Babies: Room 113

For the Record: 12/31/2023

Bible Study	—
AM Assembly	—
PM Assembly	127
Wednesday PM	161
Contributions	\$14,400
Budget	\$13,777

SERVING THIS WEEK

Sunday AM:

Song Leader: Kerry White
Opening Prayer: Trevor Manuel
Closing Prayer: Thorin Turner
Scripture Reading: Nathan Lewis
Lord's Supper Thoughts: Cody Frye
Communion: Steve Black, Brett Butler, Mark Clark,
Cody Frye, Beau Griffin, Justin Lane, Alan Simpson,
Trevin Vass
Alternate Communion: John Eck & David Lewis
Balcony Communion: James Bryant & Chuck Love
Attendance Counter: Jared Griffin
Safety Team Walk **AM/PM**: Josh Nail
Safety Team Camera **AM/PM**: Keith Nail
Coordinator **AM/PM/Wed**: Caleb Estes & Garrett Hatton
Sound Booth **AM/PM/Wed**: Jag Frye & Jared Hudson
Welcome Desk Attendant: Clarie Dennis
Greeters: Cody & Tiffany Frye,
Sue Hamilton, & Jan Manuel

Sunday PM:

Song Leader: Jack Cadenhead
Opening Prayer: Joe Dirrim
Closing Prayer: Brad Trekell
Attendance Counter: Tukur Dennis
Communion: Brad Butler & Dusty Dennis

Wednesday PM:

Song Leader: Richard Howard
Announcements/Opening Prayer: Jared Hudson
Closing Prayer: Matthew Conley
8 Minute Devotional: Ried Duncan
Attendance Counting: Drew Graham
Safety Team Walk: Kevin Graham
Safety Team Camera: Bart Conley

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Welcome
I Will Sing the Wondrous Story - 509
Scripture Reading: John 3:7-8
Prayer
His Name Is Wonderful - 163
God's Love Medley - 120
He Loves Me - 386
Thoughts From the Cross: Cody Frye
Why Did My Savior Come to Earth? - 382
Lord's Supper
God Is So Good - 83
Contribution
How Great Thou Art - 76
A.M. Lesson: What We Know
All to Jesus I Surrender - 662
Announcements
If Jesus Goes with Me - 405
Prayer
P.M. Lesson: The Return of the King

An elder and his wife are available in the classroom of the middle hallway of the building during each invitation.

Shepherd for January: Greg Hatton
Supporting Shepherd & Wife: Jeff & Pam Butler

January Contribution Counters:
Bill Young, Chuck Love, Mark Clark

SOUTHWEST CHURCH OF CHRIST

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ONLINE GIVING



Sunday

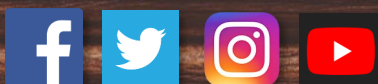
Bible Classes - 9:00 a.m.
Morning Worship - 10:00 a.m.
Evening Worship - 5:00 p.m.

Wednesday

Bible Classes - 6:30 p.m.

Worship & Classes Online

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youtube.com/swcocada



SWCOCADA