

# SOUTHWEST CHURCH OF CHRIST

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Austin, TX 78748-5307  
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swcofc.org | office@swcofc.org

## JULY BIRTHDAYS:

*Dan Cook (16), Emily Barker (17)*  
*Taylor Stein (17), Martha Smith (18)*  
*Roger Ball (21), Shelby Polk (22)*



## THIS MONTH'S ADMINISTRATING ELDER

Brett Gerhardt-brettgerhardt15@gmail.com

## VACUUMING SCHEDULE

July 20: Mark & Karen Speir  
July 27: Brett & Gretchen Gerhardt

## WEED-EATING SCHEDULE

July 20: David Crouchet & Rafael Rodriguez

## RECORD FOR 7.9.2023

BIBLE CLASS: 195  
AM ASSEMBLY: 258  
PM ASSEMBLY: 228  
WEDNESDAY: 137  
CONTRIBUTION: 10,755  
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## ELDERS:

Brett Gerhardt  
David Hopkins  
Mark Speir

## PREACHER:

Cody Westbrook  
ASSOC. PREACHER:  
John Garza



Steven Lloyd, Director  
Trent Kennedy, Assoc. Director

## WORSHIP & STUDY OPPORTUNITES

SUNDAY: Bible Classes 9:30 AM, Worship 10:30 AM & 6:00 PM  
TUESDAY: 10:00 AM (Sept.-May), Men's & Ladies' Bible Classes  
WEDNESDAY: Bible Classes, 7:00 PM



## THE THORNY SOIL

John Garza

As Jesus went about preaching the gospel of the kingdom of heaven, He did not always find a receptive audience. The problem He faced was that many people were “hard of hearing” (Matt. 13:14-15). To illustrate this problem, Jesus told “The Parable of the Four Soils.” In it, we can see ourselves as we really are concerning how we receive the Word of God in our lives. Therefore, let’s consider the first one, the thorny soil (Matt. 13:7).

According to Jesus, this is the person who “hears the word, and the cares of this world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and he becomes unfruitful.” Luke 8:14 adds, “the pleasures of life.” This soil represents the distracted hearer of God’s word; those with divided faithfulness and obedience (Matt. 6:24). Therefore, we ask, how do these thorns cause us to be unfruitful?

First, the cares and anxieties of this world can take away our minds from what is truly important (Matt. 6:25-34) which can have a direct impact

on our faithfulness to Christ. Additionally, the deceitfulness of riches can turn our attention away from the God and His righteousness. This danger is described by the Apostle Paul in 1 Timothy 6:9-10. There we learn that the distraction of “desiring to be rich” or “desiring to have more” can lead to other problems. Finally, pleasures of life can crowd Jesus out of our lives. The Scriptures teach us that earthly pleasures cannot produce true happiness (Ecc. 2). In other words, the main focus of family, educational pursuits, desire for popularity...etc. can come before Christ. In fact, sports, hobbies, recreation, and so on come first for many people today. Yet, 1 Timothy 4:8 declares that “godliness is profitable for all things, having promise of the life that now is and of that which is to come.”

Are you like the thorny soil? If you responded to the gospel at one time, but are becoming too preoccupied with the cares, riches, and pleasures of this world, you will not be able to bear fruit! Do not allow these thorns to choke out the Word in your heart.

Podcast – The Word of Life | online at [swcofc.org/word-of-life](http://swcofc.org/word-of-life)

July 16 2023

*“For God is not unrighteous to forget your work and labour of love, which ye have shewed toward his name, in that ye have ministered to the saints, and do minister.”*

- **HEBREWS 6:10**

**WORSHIP**

**MORNING**

**EVENING**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Josh Pesina

Josh Pesina

**PRAYER**

Josh Pesina

**SONG DIRECTOR**

Austin Cauley

Alan Putnam

**PRAYER**

David Nuckels

Keith Siebert

**SCRIPTURE**

Ed Grumbles

**POWERPOINT**

Tim Gibson

Tim Gibson

**SERMON**

**3 THINGS STRUGGLING  
CHRISTIANS NEED TO HEAR  
HEBREWS 6:9-10**

**4 CHARACTERISTICS OF A  
SPIRITUAL PERSON**

Cody Westbrook

Cody Westbrook

**LORD'S SUPPER**

Rafael Rodriguez  
Adolphus Wells  
Charlie Cauley  
Winston Kinser  
Jerry Hopkins

Rafael Rodriguez  
Jim Lloyd

Jim Lloyd  
Timothy Gibson  
Gerald Smith  
Brett Gerhardt  
Ed Grumbles

**CLOSING PRAYER**

Jamie Harris

John Garza

**NURSING HOME RESIDENTS & SHUT-INS**

Maria Del Donno, Edith Farris,  
Rosemary Garrett, Victor Gonzalez, Tom Hanks  
Jean Jackson, Clarence Whetstone

A complete prayer list is available on the credenza, our website, and on the *Lightpost* app.  
Please contact the church office to make requests

**ACTIVITIES FOR THE COMING WEEK**

**SUNDAY:**

**9:30 AM**

Bible Class

**10:30 AM**

Morning Worship

**12:00 PM**

3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday Youth & Family Day

**6:00 PM**

Evening Worship

**WEDNESDAY:**

**7:00 PM**

Bible Class & Devotional

Songs: **Seth Gibson**

Devotional: **Branyon May**

Prayer: **Mark Speir**

PowerPoint: **Tim Gibson**

**Thursday:**

TNT Youth Devo & Activity

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**JULY:**

- Southwest Summer Series (19<sup>th</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup>)
- TNT Youth Devo & Activity (20<sup>th</sup>, 27<sup>th</sup>)
- CONNECT Young Professionals & College Devo (25<sup>th</sup>)
- Lads2Leaderettes Sewing Class (29<sup>th</sup>)

**AUGUST:**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday Worship & SWSBS Welcome Luncheon (6<sup>th</sup>)
- Southwest Summer Series (2<sup>nd</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup>)
- TNT Youth Devo & Activity (3<sup>rd</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>)
- SWSBS 46<sup>th</sup> Orientation and Classes Begin (7<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup>)
- CONNECT Young Professionals & College Devo (29<sup>th</sup>)