

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Church of God Big Sandy

ChurchofGodBigSandy.com

April 4, 2009 • Sunset 7:40

Passover service on Tuesday: 7:30 p.m.

Service on Thursday: 2:00 p.m.

Service next Sabbath: 2:00 p.m.

Order of service

Song leader	David Fisher
Pianist	Dixon Cartwright
First sermon	Ron Feaker
Teen class—Classroom #1	Jeanine Case
Bridges class—Library	Carol Bald
Kids' class—Classroom #2	Jeannie Roden
Interactive Bible study	Bernie Monsalvo
Second sermon	Bernie Monsalvo

Quick takes

1. Interrelating with other congregations—Today, Dave Havir is speaking in Montgomery, Ala. (While in that vicinity, he is also conducting extended premarital counseling.) This coming Tuesday, Ron Feaker will be the main presenter at the Passover service in Hope, Ark. This coming Thursday (first day of Unleavened Bread) and this coming Sabbath, Neil Mclver will be speaking in Harrisburg, Pa.
2. Potluck today—There is a potluck meal scheduled immediately after the church service today.
3. Passover service on Tuesday—The service will begin at 7:30 p.m. Basins will be provided, but please bring a towel.
4. Sign up for the meal on Wednesday—The meal on Wednesday will begin at 6:30. If you plan to attend the meal in the building on Wednesday, please sign the list on the Information Table. The church will provide the meat along with a salad. We ask families who attend the meal to bring items from the following categories: (1) vegetables, (2) bread, (3) potatoes or rice and (4) dessert.

5. First day of Unleavened Bread—The congregation will worship on the first day of Unleavened Bread on Thursday, April 9.
 - 12:00 noon Bible study
 - 1:00 p.m. Tasting of unleavened snacks
 - 2:00 Church service
6. Seventh day of Unleavened Bread—The congregation will worship on the seventh day of Unleavened Bread on Wednesday, April 15.
 - 11:00 a.m. Church service
 - 12:30 p.m. Potluck meal
 - 2:30 Seminars
7. Seminars on Wednesday, April 15—The people scheduled to give seminars on Wednesday, April 15, in the afternoon are Neil McIver, Melodee Overton and Stan West.
8. Community concert on April 18—Dave Havir has invited musician Ross Jutsum to give a community concert in the building on Saturday evening, April 18, at 8:00. We are offering this concert free of charge as a service project to the community.

Reminder from the pastor

Here is a reminder from Dave Havir: “Please remember that the upcoming feast days are not ‘the days of unleavened crumbs.’ I recommend that believers spend more time praying, studying and loving other people than cleaning crumbs.”

Exodus 13:6-7—“Seven days you shall eat unleavened bread, and on the seventh day there shall be a feast to the LORD. Unleavened bread shall be eaten seven days. And no leavened bread shall be seen among you, nor shall leaven be seen among you in all your quarters.”

Exodus 12:33-34—And the Egyptians urged the people, that they might send them out of the land in haste. For they said, “We shall all be dead.” So the people took their dough before it was leavened, having their kneading bowls bound up in their clothes on their shoulders.

Exodus 12:39—And they baked unleavened cakes of the dough which they had brought out of Egypt; for it was not leavened, because they were driven out of Egypt and could not wait, nor had they prepared provisions for themselves.

Luke 17:31-36—“In that day, he who is on the housetop, and his goods are in the house, let him not come down to take them away. And likewise the one who is in the field, let him not turn back. Remember Lot’s wife. Whoever seeks to save his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life will preserve it. I tell you, in that night there will be two men in one bed: the one will be taken and the other will be left. Two women will be grinding together: the one will be taken and the other left. Two men will be in the field: the one will be taken and the other left.”

Health updates

Nancy Sharp was moved to Room 1465 at the Good Shepherd Medical Center in Longview earlier this week. On Wednesday, she had surgery to remove some tissue surrounding a sore. (During the procedure, the doctor also removed a kidney stone.) Nancy loves visitors. She is expecting to be moved to a room in the rehabilitation section of the hospital in the near future.

In the Feb. 28 bulletin, we reported that **Eva Thompson** of Fort Walton Beach, Fla., had been diagnosed with stage-four lung cancer. Mrs. Thompson had radiation treatment in Fort Walton Beach until she got sick. She visited a natural-alternative clinic in Paducah, Ky. She spent some time in a Tupelo, Miss., hospital dealing with dehydration and low blood pressure. She has made tentative plans to spend 13 days at an alternative cancer clinic in Tijuana, Mexico. She appreciates your prayers.

Prayer requests

Dave Goethals, former Ambassador College faculty member, had recent surgery to remove a polyp from his colon. The family requests prayers that no infection occurs in the body and that the test results on the polyp come back negative (cancer-free).

Mac Cook (brother of **Melinda Akins**) had successful surgery on Wednesday to remove a section of his colon. He visited the UT Health Center (north of Tyler) on Sunday and went home. He returned on Tuesday and had the surgery the next day.

Carl Akins reported that Mac "is in good spirits despite the fact he will have to deal with a colonoscopy bag for six months to a year." Please pray for his recovery.

Fred Patton of the local United congregation had some problems during the week with swelling of his palate and tongue. He was also having difficulty breathing.

Betty Erickson of Big Sandy died on Tuesday, March 24. Please remember her family in your prayers.

Jason Wynn of Gladewater died in an automobile accident late Tuesday evening. Please remember the family in your prayers.

Kitty Brisco of Dallas died Thursday. Please remember her family in your prayers.

"Edifying the Body" on the new Web site

Here is an index of the titles of the articles on the section of the Web site called "Edifying the Body."

- March 14—Overwhelmed With Love, by Jeanine Case
- March 21—Jesus and the Temple in Jerusalem, by Bernie Monsalvo
- March 28—Overcoming a Root of Bitterness, by David Maas
- April 4—The Power of Forgiveness, by Michele Mischnick

“In remembrance of Me”

Here is Dave Havar’s weekly commentary that appears in the “Among Friends” section on the church Web site for this weekend.

BIG SANDY, Texas—In a few days many believers around the world will be partaking of some symbols that were outlined in the Bible by our Savior, Jesus Christ. The apostle Paul talked about those symbols in his first letter to the Corinthians.

Paul described what the Lord Jesus had done on the night He was betrayed (1 Corinthians 11:23). Paul mentioned that Christ broke bread and said: “Take and eat. This is My body, which is broken for you. Do this in remembrance of Me” (verse 24).

The bread. Broken bread. Eaten in remembrance of Him.

The believers in the apostolic age learned much about the suffering of the Christ through their experiences on this earth.

When Paul was defending himself to members of an unappreciative congregation, he mentioned some of the things he endured for them (2 Corinthians 11:23-28).

If Paul was doing those things for glory, for acceptance, for pity or for such other human reasons, it was a waste of time. That’s what he wrote in 1 Corinthians 13:3: “What if I gave away all that I owned and let myself be burned alive? I would gain nothing, unless I loved others” (Contemporary English Version).

Peter explained the difference between suffering for our sins and suffering as a believer (1 Peter 4:15-16). When we suffer for our sins, we are not imitating Christ. When we suffer in innocence, we have the opportunity to reflect our Savior (1 Peter 2:19-24; 1 Peter 3:16; 1 Peter 4:13-14).

Back to 1 Corinthians 11. After Paul mentioned the broken bread, he told how Christ proceeded to drink from a cup and said: “This cup is the new testament in My blood. Do this in remembrance of Me” (verse 25).

The wine. Only a little wine. Sipped in remembrance of Him.

When Paul wrote his letters about the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, he was doing more than just passing along inspirational slogans. In 1 Corinthians 15:31 he wrote: “I die daily.”

Why did he write those words? The context of the phrase was discussing his battles with “beasts at Ephesus” (verse 32). Whether Paul was facing literal animals or dealing with an oppressive civil government, he kept his eyes on the death and resurrection of His Savior.

If we reflect back upon our baptism, we will remember that we were “baptized into His death” (Romans 6:3). We will remember that we were “buried with Him by baptism into death” (verse 4).

But we will also remember His resurrection. Paul wrote:

■ “Just as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life” (verse 4).

■ “If we have been planted together in the likeness of His death, we shall be also in the likeness of His resurrection” (verse 5).

We have the opportunity to partake of powerful symbols as we “show the Lord’s death until He comes” (1 Corinthians 11:26).

The Lord’s death means something to us because the Father raised Him from the dead.

Focusing on the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ is about our future in the Kingdom of God.

Focusing on the death and resurrection of the Messiah is about our opportunity to be a vessel of honor on this earth today.

What will you be thinking about when you partake of the broken bread and the wine?

He said: “Do this in remembrance of Me.”