

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## Church of God Big Sandy

ChurchofGodBigSandy.com

May 23, 2009 • Sunset 8:15

Service next Sabbath: 2:00 p.m.

### Order of service

Song leader	Clay Forrestier
Pianist	Dixon Cartwright
First sermon	James Moran
Teen class—Classroom #1	Melodee Overton
Bridges class—Library	TBA
Kids' class—Classroom #2	Carol Bald
Interactive Bible study—Foyer	Bernie Monsalvo
Second sermon	Dave Havir

### Quick takes

1. Interrelating with other congregations—Today, Ron Feaker is giving a sermon in Hope, Ark.
2. Conclusion of board nominations—The process for nominating members to the board will conclude today at 5:00 p.m. (The election process will continue in June.) Forms may be obtained at the Information Table.
3. Thank you—The Frontier Girls thank the congregation for providing the classrooms for their tea party last Sunday.
4. Thank you—Representatives of Exxon thank the congregation for renting our facility to them for their safety meeting last Thursday.
5. Thank you—Representatives of Woodvale School thank the congregation for providing the classrooms for their year-end event last Thursday evening.
6. Fellowship Club today—There is a Fellowship Club scheduled for today. We will be showing a two-hour DVD about "Daniel's Timeline." While our congregation does not endorse any specific dates about end-time prophecy, we will make available this specific interpretation for your perusal. To give attendees more time to fellowship in the main hall before the Fellowship Club, we will be starting at 4:30 p.m. (instead of the usual 4:15 start time). Due to the length of this Fellowship Club, light refreshments will be served.

7. Private function in building on Tuesday—The Hawkins school district is scheduled to have its year-end banquet in our building Tuesday evening. Please give participants their privacy. (Even though the Hawkins school district has new facilities that can accommodate its event, school representatives commented to us how much they have enjoyed the atmosphere of our building.) Ladies from our congregation are catering the event for 208 guests.
8. Pentecost—Our congregation will worship on the Day of Pentecost on Sunday, May 31.
  - 11:00 a.m. Church service
  - 1:00 p.m. Potluck meal
  - 2:00 Seminars
9. Seminar presenters on Pentecost—The two presenters at the seminars on the Day of Pentecost are Reg Killingley and Bernie Monsalvo.
10. Edifying the Body—The article for “Edifying the Body” posted on our Web site for the weekend of May 23–24 is “Iron Sharpens Iron” by Gerald Gill. (The article is printed later in this bulletin.)
11. Among friends—The article for “Among Friends” posted on our Web site for the weekend of May 23–24 is “Why Does the Father Value Broken Things?” by Dave Havir.

## Pastor's Feast schedule

This week Dave Havir finalized his travel schedule (and purchased his airline tickets) for the 2009 Feast of Tabernacles. He is scheduled to be in Colorado Springs on Oct. 3–4, in Big Sandy on Oct. 5, in Myrtle Beach on Oct. 6–7 and in Destin on Oct. 8–10.

## Prayer updates

**Penny Goodchild** on Tuesday went to a doctor who diagnosed her as having angina and who recommended that she have a heart catheterization this coming Tuesday.

## New prayer requests

This week **Nathan Kimmons** of Brookhaven, Miss., had a viral infection that included a sore throat and a high fever. As you remember, Nathan was our missionary representative at Legacy Institute in Thailand last year and will be returning for another year. What you might not have known is that Nathan was scheduled to fly to Thailand this past Tuesday. With his viral infection, he was allowed to postpone his flight. He is hoping to reschedule his departure shortly after Pentecost. He appreciates your prayers.

**Dorothy Jones** reports that her blood pressure has recently been high.

**Ralph Giddens** of St. Peters, Mo., was scheduled to have a triple-bypass heart surgery yesterday.

**Makayla Thomas** (a 3-year-old girl from Mobile, Ala.) was recently diagnosed with Kawasaki disease. She received some treatment in a hospital and returned home.

**Ernie Parker** of the Dallas area died on Monday. Please remember his wife, **Edie**, and the rest of the family in your prayers.

## Bible study on May 20

On Wednesday, May 20, Dave Havir gave a Bible study titled “God’s Deliverance—Part 2 of 5.” This second study in the series was about escaping “through death.”

■ ***As we begin discussing escape-through-death, it is important to establish the fact that God does NOT want a believer to take his own life***

■ ***Notice how Christ approached death***

**John 12:27**—“Now My soul is troubled, and what shall I say? ‘Father, save Me from this hour’? But for this purpose I came to this hour.”

■ ***Notice how Paul approached death***

**Philippians 1:21-24**—For to me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain. But if I live on in the flesh, this will mean fruit from my labor; yet what I shall choose I cannot tell. For I am hard pressed between the two, having a desire to depart and be with Christ, which is far better. Nevertheless to remain in the flesh is more needful for you.

## “Iron Sharpens Iron”

This article is from the “Edifying the Body” section of the Church of God Big Sandy’s Web site, [churchofgodbig sandy.com](http://churchofgodbig sandy.com). It was posted for the weekend of May 23–24, 2009.

By Gerald Gill

**K**UNKLETOWN, Pa.—All of us can learn from other people. Likewise, all of us have something to give to other people.

A proverb in the Old Testament encourages people to help each other. It says, “Iron sharpens iron; so a man sharpens the countenance of his friend” (Proverbs 27:17).

In thinking about this proverb, I thought about a few physical examples in my life

that might be helpful in putting it into practice.

### **Grandfather’s lesson**

As this article is being published in May of 2009, I am 80 years old. Some of my early understanding about sharpening knives came from my grandfather.

When I was a young boy, my brother and I spent a summer with my grandparents on Nantucket Island, Mass. My grandfather wore a suit coat

and a vest every day. In his vest pocket was a small pocketknife. That knife was very sharp.

My grandfather would make kites, paddle-wheel boats and other simple toys out of wood for my brother and me. When he was finished carving and whittling a project, he would carefully clean the knife. Then he would take out a small honing stone and sharpen it.

He would tell us the importance of having a sharp knife. The reason he could make so many wonderful toys with his knife was that he took care of his knife. He regularly sharpened his knife.

### Professional carver

Later, I spent a lot of time with knives. I was a professional meat cutter for 31 years. (I retired in 1991.)

When I was 30 years old I served an apprenticeship in the retail meat business. I learned how to cut up cattle and turn them into steaks, roasts and other cuts.

When I was working as a meat cutter in the retail market, we had to work with large chunks of meat. That is not generally true today.

Most of the retail stores today receive meat prepackaged in smaller sizes. Years ago the retail market worked with the entire animal.

The frontquarter (a quarter of the animal) weighed 80-110 pounds. The meat that came from the frontquarter was the chuck steaks and chuck roasts.

The rib of beef weighed 25-30 pounds. The meat that came from this section was standing rib roasts.

The loin of beef weighed 40-50 pounds. The meat that came from this section was sirloin steaks, porterhouse steaks and T-bone steaks. (The highest-priced section of the animal is the tenderloin meat, which comes from three to four pounds of the animal.)

This type of work meant that we had an assortment of knives. It was important to learn to use them properly. But it was also vital to learn to take care of them.

Some of the workers neglected their knives, and their neglect showed up in their workmanship. There were times when their neglect of their equipment affected their production. The cuts of meat were not smoothly and evenly cut.

In our business there was an important rule: You never use another person's knives.

Some of the workers took such good care of their knives that they knew immediately if someone had used their knife, if only for a short while.

### Spiritual lessons

What can we learn about helping a friend from the simple physical act of sharpening a knife?

I have chosen three points for this comparison.

■ In sharpening a knife, the cutting edge is the sharp edge of the knife.

A responsible person takes great care in helping the knife to be on the cutting edge. Do we have a strong desire to help people be on the cutting edge of the Kingdom of God?

Jesus Christ said that our words reflect our heart (Matthew 12:34). If we want our words to be edifying toward other people, our heart must be right.

■ As each knife is different, so each person is different.

In sharpening the knife, what is its condition? What is the quality of steel in the knife? What type of stone should be used: fine, medium or coarse? We want to remove only as little metal as necessary.

In 1 Corinthians 9:19-22 the apostle Paul wrote about the importance of understanding other people before trying to help them.

We have a different heredity, different past environment and different present environment. We are all different personalities with different strengths and weaknesses.

■ In sharpening a knife, we must hold it at the proper angle. In sharpening a friend, we must take the proper approach.

The cutting edge of a knife is usually maintained with a special tool called a *steel*. The steel, which is magnetized, is drawn back and forth over the edge of the knife to create a very fine, sharp edge.

People sometimes used a powerful magnifying glass to see when the edge is still a little too rough. Then it needs gentler steeling.

Paul wrote about the importance of choosing the right words. In Colossians 4:6 he wrote: "Let your speech always be with grace, seasoned with salt; that you may know how you ought to answer every man."

### Final thoughts

In living our lives, it is not necessarily what type of job we did that we remember. Rather, we remember the good memories from the associations and relationships of the people we worked with.

As we grow older it is nice to go to reunions and retirement parties to rekindle memories.

God is in the people business, and He is interested in each and every one of us.