



Because of the two  
church services during  
this Pentecost weekend,  
we have combined the  
bulletins for the  
Sabbath of May 30,  
2009, and the Day of  
Pentecost,  
May 31, 2009.

So please scroll down to  
see all eight pages after  
this page.

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## Church of God Big Sandy

ChurchofGodBigSandy.com

May 30, 2009 • Sunset 8:19

Service tomorrow: 11:00 a.m.

Service next Sabbath: 2:00 p.m.

### Order of service

Song leader	Reg Killingley
Pianist	Julie Wilkins
First sermon	Ron Feaker
Teen class—Classroom #1	David Havar III
Bridges class—Library	TBA
Kids' class—Classroom #2	Leslie Harroff
Interactive Bible study—Foyer	Bernie Monsalvo
Second sermon	Bernie Monsalvo

### Quick takes

1. Interrelating with other congregations—Today, Dave Havar is giving a sermon at the Tyler congregation of the Church of God International in the morning and at the Tyler Church of God in the afternoon.
2. Thank you—Amanda Holcomb Weiss (Hawkins High School counselor) wrote the following thank-you after the banquet that was in our building on Thursday: “There are truly no words to express the gratitude that I personally feel toward all of you for your remarkable display of generosity and your unbelievable attitude of service! Hawkins High School is extremely grateful for everything that you did in creating such a wonderful evening for our seniors Thursday night. The environment was elegant, the food was delicious, and the flowers were perfect. I have had so many positive comments from faculty, students and parents about how enjoyable the evening was, and that is due in large part to all of you. We certainly hope to continue holding this event at your beautiful facility in the years to come. Thank you!”
3. Anniversary reception today—Ron and Grace Feaker invite everyone in the congregation to enjoy cake, ice cream and punch today after the church service in commemoration of their 55th wedding anniversary. They appreciate all of their friends and wanted to give refreshments to you.

4. Pentecost—Here is the schedule for tomorrow.
  - 11:00 a.m. Church service
  - 1:00 p.m. Potluck meal
  - 2:00 Seminars
5. Potluck next Sabbath—There is a potluck meal scheduled immediately after the church service next Sabbath.
6. Work party on June 7—There is a work party scheduled on Sunday, June 7, from 8:00 a.m. until noon. The goal is to perform some projects around the building. The work party is open to anyone who can help.
7. Results of nomination process—The Election Committee gives the following report about the nomination process that occurred this month. The number of ballots submitted was 36. The number of people receiving votes was 32. The following four people received the highest vote totals and will proceed to the election phase: Marcia Chambers, Ron Feaker, David Havir III and Jim Wilkins. The election phase will begin next weekend.
8. Edifying the Body—The article for “Edifying the Body” posted on our Web site for the weekend of May 30–31 is “Here’s a Point to Ponder: Promote Peace,” by Reg Killingley. (This article was previously printed in the May 3, 2008, bulletin.)

## Thank you for financial help

This past week, Dave Havir (on behalf of the congregation) purchased a car for a needy person in the surrounding East Texas community. Here are excerpts of a thank-you note she sent: “Me and my family have never had anything done for us like this before. We are so very thankful. I can’t even explain how wonderful this is to us. We have had a very hard past three years—with my wreck and becoming disabled and being a single mother of two wonderful girls. I would just like to thank y’all for being so kind and helping me and my girls like this. I will never forget this. And will always be thankful and hold y’all so close to my heart for your kindness.”

## Seminars tomorrow

### ***“Why Do We Keep Pentecost on Sunday?” by Bernie Monsalvo***

Some believe that Pentecost is on Sivan 6 according to the Jewish calendar. Some still believe that Monday is the right day. Why do we keep Pentecost on Sunday? Is it because we can’t count? And does it count?

### ***“Wholly Babble in the Holy Bible?” by Reg Killingley***

Speaking in tongues represented the coming of the Holy Spirit, but what else did it represent? Peter said it fulfilled a prophecy of Joel, but could there have been another Old Testament parallel? Why does it even matter?

## Prayer updates

**Penny Goodchild** had her heart catheterization on Tuesday and received a good report. The procedure showed that she has no clogged arteries. She thanks everyone for the prayers.

**Suzanne Porter** of Granbury had a successful six-hour surgery on Wednesday to remove cancer. Please pray for her complete recovery.

## New prayer requests

**Norene Martz** recently learned that she has a second leaky heart valve. This helps to explain her breathing problems.

**Werner Jebens** of Oceanside, Calif. (father of **Gloria Sexton**), died on Monday. Please remember his wife, **Ruth**, and the rest of the family in your prayers.

## Bible study on May 27

On Wednesday, May 27, Bernie Monsalvo gave a Bible study titled “The Seven I AM Sayings—Part 1 of 2.” In this study he covered the first four.

**John 6:35**—And Jesus said to them, “I am the bread of life. He who comes to Me shall never hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst.”

**John 8:12**—Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, “I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life.”

**John 10:7**—Then Jesus said to them again, “Most assuredly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep.”

**John 10:11**—“I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd gives His life for the sheep.”

## “Thank God Every Day for the Hedge”

This article is from the “Among Friends” 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 30–31, 2009.

By **Dave Havir**

**B**IG SANDY, Texas—Did you know that the “protection gospel” is a variation of the “health-and-wealth gospel”?

Someone may ask: What is the health-and-wealth gospel?

It goes something like this: “If you obey

God, you will always be healthy and wealthy. If you are sick or poor, the reason is disobedience.”

Let me give you a few thoughts about this flawed concept.

■ Many religious people, including many from the Church of God heritage, believe this theory.

■ Many televangelists, including some from the Church of God heritage, use this theory to build their following and financial base.

■ Those who believe this theory generally come to this conclusion because of a wrong emphasis on Deuteronomy 28 and Leviticus 26.

■ Many New Testament scriptures show the error of this theory.

■ One of the greatest proofs against the health-and-wealth gospel is in the Old Testament. The book of Job shows that God uses bad circumstances to love good people.

### **Empty promises**

Someone may ask: What was that protection gospel that you mentioned earlier?

It goes something like this: “If you obey God, you will always be protected from trials.”

Considering the martyrdom of Jesus and some of His faithful followers, such a theory is certainly bogus.

Here’s another variation of the protection gospel: “If you obey our church leaders, you will be protected from the coming tribulation.”

Think about it. If obeying God Himself does not guarantee physical protection, how does obeying the whims of physical rulers guarantee physical protection?

Someone will undoubtedly say: Revelation 3:10 proves that my church organization will be protected from the coming tribulation.

My response: Although Revelation 3:10 shows that some believers were historically protected and some believers will be protected in the future, this verse does not promise protection for all obedient believers. Anyone who claims this verse is discussing his specific group is only giving his private interpretation of prophecy.

### **Pulled back the hedge**

When a believer looks at the story of Job, he learns a lot about the “hedge” that provides protection.

Notice a few things about the story.

■ God viewed Job as an upright servant who respected God and hated evil (Job 1:1, 8).

■ Satan mentioned that the reason Job respected God was a hedge that was put around Job, his family and his business (verse 10).

■ Satan challenged God to pull back the hedge and God would see how quickly Job would curse Him (verse 11).

■ God pulled back the hedge and allowed Satan to touch Job’s possessions, but God prohibited Satan from touching Job (verse 12).

■ Satan hurt Job’s family and business (verses 13-19).

■ Job worshiped God (verse 20).

### **Back a little farther**

Satan wanted to torment Job even more and therefore asked for more leeway in Job’s life.

Notice how the story continues.

■ God still viewed Job as an upright man who respected Him and hated evil (Job 2:3).

■ Satan challenged God to allow Job to feel physical pain and God would see how quickly Job would curse Him (verses 4-5).

■ God pulled back the hedge and allowed Satan to touch Job’s flesh. But God prohibited Satan from killing him (verse 6).

■ Job initially did not sin with his lips (verse 10).

■ As the trial progressed, Job did sin. Who besides Jesus Christ wouldn’t have sinned under those conditions? But in the end Job repented, and God blessed him.

### **Valuable lesson**

We can learn many things from the book of Job.

Some of the lessons are:

■ Bad things happen to good people.

■ Many “friends” give worthless advice, especially when they use the health-and-wealth-and-protection gospel as their guide.

■ Bad things influence good people to draw closer to God.

■ Satan is much stronger than people, but God is much stronger than Satan.

■ God has placed a hedge around people to protect them from Satan.

■ We should thank God for the hedge during the rough days of trials. Even when God pulls back the hedge, it still protects us from Satan’s full wrath.

■ We should also thank God for the hedge during the peaceful days of life.

In fact, it wouldn’t be a bad idea to thank God for the hedge every day of our lives.

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## Church of God Big Sandy

ChurchofGodBigSandy.com

May 31, 2009 • Sunset 8:20

Service next Sabbath: 2:00 p.m.

### Welcome to our guests

Members of the Church of God Big Sandy welcome all guests as we worship on the Day of Pentecost today. Here is the schedule for today.

- 11:00 a.m. Church service
- 1:00 p.m. Potluck meal
- 2:00 Two seminars

The format for our church service is to have a break between the two sermons. There will be a kids' class during the first sermon. (However, there will not be a teen class or an interactive Bible study today.)

### Order of service

<b>Song leader</b>	.....	Clay Forrestier
<b>Pianist</b>	.....	Kim Skelton
<b>Offertory</b>	.....	Piano solo
<b>First sermon</b>	.....	Stan West
<b>Kids' class—Classroom #2</b>	.....	Leslie Harroff
<b>Second sermon</b>	.....	Dave Havir

### Quick takes

1. Seminar presenters today—The two presenters at the seminars today are Reg Killingley and Bernie Monsalvo. Their subjects are listed later in this bulletin.
2. Guest speaker next week—Charles Groce of the Church of God International is scheduled to give the second sermon next Sabbath.
3. Potluck next Sabbath—There is a potluck meal scheduled immediately after the church service next Sabbath.

4. Work party on June 7—There is a work party scheduled on Sunday, June 7, from 8:00 a.m. until noon. The goal is to perform some projects around the building. The work party is open to anyone who can help.
5. Edifying the Body—The article for “Edifying the Body” posted on our Web site for the weekend of May 30–31 is “Here’s a Point to Ponder: Promote Peace” by Reg Killingley. (This article was previously printed in the May 3, 2008, bulletin.)
6. Among Friends—The article for “Among Friends” posted on our Web site for the weekend of May 30–31 is “Thank God Every Day for the Hedge” by Dave Havir.

## **Seminars today**

### ***“Why Do We Keep Pentecost on Sunday?” by Bernie Monsalvo***

Some believe that Pentecost is on Sivan 6 according to the Jewish calendar. Some still believe that Monday is the right day. Why do we keep Pentecost on Sunday? Is it because we can’t count? And does it count?

### ***“Wholly Babble in the Holy Bible?” by Reg Killingley***

Speaking in tongues represented the coming of the Holy Spirit, but what else did it represent? Peter said it fulfilled a prophecy of Joel, but could there have been another Old Testament parallel? Why does it even matter?

## **“Edifying the Body” on the 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
- April 11—The Angel of Goliad, by Stan West
- April 18—Jesus and “Believing Thomas,” by Bernie Monsalvo
- April 25—What’s on Your Menu?, by Reg Killingley
- May 2—Lessons From Job, by Melodee Overton
- May 9—Moms Are Special People, by Pam Havir
- May 16—Sometimes It’s Hard to Be a Friend, by Martha McIver
- May 23—Iron Sharpens Iron, by Gerald Gill
- May 30—Here’s a Point to Ponder: Promote Peace, by Reg Killingley

## Congratulations to high-school graduates

- Jordan Fisher  
 High school: Big Sandy High School  
 Plans: To attend Texas A&M  
 He plans to study architecture.
- Carly Forrest  
 High school: Gladewater High School  
 Plans: To attend Tyler Junior College  
 She plans to become a sonogram technician.
- Robert Forrest  
 High school: Gladewater High School  
 Plans: To attend Texas State Technical College in  
 Marshall

## Scriptures for the season

**Exodus 20:1-2**—And God spoke all these words, saying: “I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage.”

**Exodus 20:3-11**—“You shall have no other gods before Me. You shall not make for yourself a carved image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth; you shall not bow down to them nor serve them. For I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and fourth generations of those who hate Me, but showing mercy to thousands, to those who love Me and keep My commandments. You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain, for the LORD will not hold him guiltless who takes His name in vain. Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days you shall labor and do all your work, but the seventh day is the Sabbath of the LORD your God. In it you shall do no work: you, nor your son, nor your daughter, nor your male servant, nor your female servant, nor your cattle, nor your stranger who is within your gates. For in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and hallowed it.”

**Exodus 20:12-17**—“Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long upon the land which the LORD your God is giving you. You shall not murder. You shall not commit adultery. You shall not steal. You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor. You shall not covet your neighbor’s house; you shall not covet your neighbor’s wife, nor his male servant, nor his female servant, nor his ox, nor his donkey, nor anything that is your neighbor’s.”

**Psalms 51:11**—Do not cast me away from Your presence, and do not take Your Holy Spirit from me.

**Luke 24:49**—"Behold, I send the Promise of My Father upon you; but tarry in the city of Jerusalem until you are endued with power from on high."

**Acts 1:4-5**—And being assembled together with them, He commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the Promise of the Father, "which," He said, "you have heard from Me; for John truly baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now."

**Acts 1:6-8**—Therefore, when they had come together, they asked Him, saying, "Lord, will You at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?" And He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has put in His own authority. But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

**Acts 1:9-11**—Now when He had spoken these things, while they watched, He was taken up, and a cloud received Him out of their sight. And while they looked steadfastly toward heaven as He went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel, who also said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven."

**Acts 2:1-2**—When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting.

**Acts 2:32-33**—"This Jesus God has raised up, of which we are all witnesses. Therefore being exalted to the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, He poured out this which you now see and hear."

**Acts 2:37-40**—Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Men and brethren, what shall we do?" Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call." And with many other words he testified and exhorted them, saying, "Be saved from this perverse generation."

**Romans 8:11**—But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you.

**Galatians 5:22-23**—But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law.

**Ephesians 4:30**—And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by [which] you were sealed for the day of redemption.

**1 Thessalonians 5:19**—Do not quench the Spirit.

**2 Timothy 1:6-7**—Therefore I remind you to stir up the gift of God which is in you through the laying on of my hands. For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.