

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## Church of God Big Sandy

ChurchofGodBigSandy.com

March 27, 2010 • 2:00 p.m. • Sunset 7:34

Service next Sabbath: 2:00 p.m.

### Order of service

Song leader	Travis Self
Pianist	Kim Skelton
First sermon	Reg Killingley
Teen class—Classroom #1	Melodee Overton
Bridges class—Library	Carol Bald
Kids' class—Classroom #2	Mindy Forrestier
Interactive Bible study—Foyer	Bernie Monsalvo
Second sermon	Dave Havir

### Quick takes

1. Thank you—Thank you to all the people who served at the Women's Conference last weekend.
2. Interrelating with other congregations—Today, Ron Feaker is giving a sermon in Hope, Ark. He and Gracie are scheduled to spend the night in that area, and Ron will conduct the Passover service there tomorrow evening.
3. Sign up for the meal on the eve of the Feast of Unleavened Bread—If you plan to attend the meal in the building on March 29, please sign the list on the Information Table.
4. Bible study on Tuesday at noon—Bernie Monsalvo is scheduled.
5. Bible study on Wednesday evening—Dave Havir is scheduled to give the Bible study at the regular time on Wednesday evening.
6. Edifying the Body—The article "Try Reading Ecclesiastes Before Passover" by Dave Havir was purposefully repeated this week.
7. Among Friends—This week's article is "Do You Remember the Spring Memorial?" by Dave Havir.
8. Eye on the World—This week's collection is by Jeanine Case.

## Spring Feast schedule

### Passover service on Sunday, March 28

The congregation will conduct a traditional Church of God Passover service (foot-washing, unleavened bread and wine) on Sunday, March 28, at 7:00 p.m.

- J.L. Roden will help coordinate the physical organization.
- As is customary, we will have a system in place to help people who need assistance during the foot-washing portion of the evening.
- Teenagers and children are welcome to attend.

### “Night to Be Much Observed” meal on Monday, March 29

The congregation will have a special meal in the building on Monday, March 29, at 6:30 p.m. This meal is on the eve of the Feast of Unleavened Bread (which is mentioned in Leviticus 23:6-7 and 1 Corinthians 5:8). In Exodus 12:42, that evening has been described as a night of observations or watching.

The church will provide the meat along with a green 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.

If you plan to attend the meal in the building, please sign the list on the Information Table.

### First day of Unleavened Bread on Tuesday, March 30

The congregation will worship on the first day of Unleavened Bread on Tuesday, March 30. Here is the tentative schedule.

- 12:00 noon     Bible study
- 1:00 p.m.     Tasting of unleavened snacks
- 2:00            Church service

### Seventh day of Unleavened Bread on Monday, April 5

The congregation will worship on the seventh day of Unleavened Bread on Monday, April 5. Here is the tentative schedule.

- 11:00 a.m.     Church service
- 1:00 p.m.     Potluck meal
- 2:15            Seminars

## Prayer updates

Since this bulletin was completed on Tuesday, some of these situations may have changed through the week.

**James Moran** was scheduled for a test of his heart last Monday to see if he was eligible for colon surgery on the next day (last Tuesday).

By way of a reminder, **Nancy Sharp** is scheduled to visit a doctor in Dallas on Tuesday, March 30.

By way of a reminder, **Sharon Burgin** is scheduled to have colon surgery on Thursday, April 1, at Mother Frances Hospital in Tyler.

**Carrol Bryant**, who has been battling cancer of the mouth for the last year, is in very serious condition. Mr. Bryant and his wife, **Valerie**, appreciate your prayers.

**Willea Lea Kelley** of Grantsville, W.Va. (mother of **Kathy Kerby**), returned to the hospital on Monday, March 22.

**Mireille Giauque** of Preles, Switzerland, had surgery on March 10 to remove a tumor. Samples at the end of the operation revealed that not all the cancerous tissue could be removed.

As was announced orally last Sabbath, **Sarah Hensley** of Soper, Okla., died on Monday, March 15. Please remember the family in your prayers.

As was announced orally last Sabbath, **Fredonia Spears** of Longview died on Thursday, March 18. Please remember the family in your prayers.

### New prayer requests

**Jeannie Snook** of Gladewater (mother of **Aaron Dean**) had a stroke on Saturday night. She is in Good Shepherd Medical Center in Longview.

**Peter McNair** of Woodbury, Minn., is scheduled for surgery on April 23 for a recurrent brain tumor.

**Robert Bailey** of Sumiton, Ala., died from pancreatic cancer on Sunday, March 14. Please remember the family in your prayers.

### Bible study on March 24

On Wednesday, March 24, Dave Havar gave a Bible study titled "Why Do You Obey God?—Part 2 of 3."

#### ■ *To be blessed at the resurrection*

**Luke 14:12-14**—Then He also said to him who invited Him, "When you give a dinner or a supper, do not ask your friends, your brothers, your relatives, nor rich neighbors, lest they also invite you back, and you be repaid. But when you give a feast, invite the poor, the maimed, the lame, the blind. And you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you; for you shall be repaid at the resurrection of the just."

**Romans 8:17-18**—And if children, then heirs—heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together. For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.

## “Try Reading Ecclesiastes Before Passover”

This article is from the “Edifying the Body” section of the Church of God Big Sandy’s Web site, churchofgodbig sandy.com. It was posted for two consecutive weekends (March 20–21 and March 27–28, 2010).

**By Dave Havir**

**B**IG SANDY, Texas—Have you ever considered how the book of Ecclesiastes can help you prepare for the New Testament Passover?

Oh, I realize that some religions traditionally read the book of Ecclesiastes during the Feast of Tabernacles. But can you see how this book helps you approach the Passover?

Consider the theme of the book for a minute. The author is searching for the meaning of life.

He begins his book with a thesis: “Vanity of vanities; all is vanity” (Ecclesiastes 1:2).

Not a very positive beginning, is it?

At first glance this book is not an optimistic book. Although most people would find the conclusion to be positive, many people would in fact consider the tone throughout the rest of the book to be pessimistic.

What is the value in that?

### His personal journey

The beauty of the book of Ecclesiastes is that it promotes a realistic view of life: Life is a journey.

As you read the book of Ecclesiastes, you are watching the process of a man searching for the meaning of life.

Recognizing his accurate conclusion in Ecclesiastes 12:13-14 is informative. But I believe that understanding his process of reaching the conclusion is revealing and most edifying.

Notice some of the personal experiences the author had on his journey. He talked about striving after the following: wisdom (1:12-18), pleasure (2:1-3), great accomplishments (2:4-17) and hard labor (2:18-23).

He revealed some of his goals and emphases. He showed how those goals and emphases changed in his life. He expressed his reaction to his experiences.

He was learning from his experiences.

### Keeping score

An important personal lesson from Ecclesiastes is to recognize your journey in this life. By clearly seeing your journey in

life, you may have a more realistic view about how you see yourself and others.

■ Are you worthy enough to take the Passover this year? I mean, have you done enough good things this year and avoided enough bad behavior this year to take the Passover?

How does your score sheet look? Is your batting average good enough? Is your shooting percentage high enough?

■ Do you deem other people worthy enough to take the Passover this year? I mean, have they done enough good things this year and avoided enough bad behavior this year to take the Passover?

How does their score sheet look? Are they in the right physical organization? Do they have the same knowledge as you do?

### God’s job

Part of the conclusion in Ecclesiastes 12 was: “God shall bring every work into judgment with every secret thing, whether it be good or whether it be evil” (Ecclesiastes 12:14).

It’s God’s job to judge other people.

For the record, I understand that Jesus gave us instruction about what to do if someone sins against us (Matthew 18:15; Luke 17:3-4).

Plus, I understand that Paul gave us instruction about how to help people with their faults (Galatians 6:1).

But Jesus, Paul and James also clearly told us not to judge (Matthew 7:1-5; Romans 14:10-12; James 4:11-12).

Every person is on a journey. The Father and Son know the progress on the journey.

### Valuable lesson

The other part of the conclusion in Ecclesiastes 12 was: “Fear God and keep His commandments” (Ecclesiastes 12:13).

If you think you should take the Passover because you believe you have arrived at worthiness, you have not learned the meaning of life.

The more you reverence God and love His instructions, the further you are on your journey.