

Church of God, awa-East Texas & Ruston

Announcements • May 23, 2015

Ken Treybig, Pastor

Phone: 903-844-9246

Web sites: <http://cogwa.org>, <http://easttexas.cogwa.org> Friday Sunset: 8:15 p.m. (ET), 8:06 p.m. (R)

Sabbath Services

East Texas – 2:30 p.m.

Song Leader – Wynn Worthen
Pianist – Ardith Weiss
Sermonette – Gordon McCarty
Sermon – Steve McNeely

Ruston – 1 p.m.

Song Leader – John Ivey
Pianist – Johna Barnette
Sermonette – Rod Gehrke
Sermon – Ken Treybig

Pentecost Services

East Texas – 10:30 a.m.

Song Leader – John Flynn
Pianist – Ardith Weiss
Sermonette – Rod Gehrke
Sermon – Ken Treybig

Ruston – 10:30 a.m.

Song Leader – Chris Teague
Pianist – Vicky Morton
Split Sermon – Johnny Callender
Split Sermon – Chris Teague

East Texas – 2:30 p.m.

Song Leader – Ken Treybig
Pianist – Ardith Weiss
Sermonette – Ed Weiss
Sermon – John Trotter

Ruston – 2:30 p.m.

Song Leader – Steve Barnette
Pianist – Vicky Morton
Sermonette – In Accord
Sermon – Scott Hammer

General Announcements

Holy Day Offerings

Everyone should have received holy day offering envelopes. If you did not receive them, please contact headquar-

ters in Allen. Please include your Donor Envelope Number below the date in the space provided as it greatly helps in processing. It can be found on your 2014 year-end receipt.

Checks should be made payable to COG-East Texas, as we will process the offering locally before sending the funds to headquarters. Please do not include other items (tithes, notes, etc.) as that greatly complicates the local processing.

Potluck on Pentecost

There will be a potluck meal between services on Pentecost in East Texas. Please bring two of the following food items: meat dish, vegetable dish, salad, or dessert. Also, be sure to label your serving dishes. Thanks for your help!

Graduation Reception

We will have a reception honoring this year's high school graduates next Sabbath, May 30. We are asking that everyone bring non-dessert snacks. Please remember to sign the cards at the Concern Corner for our graduates.

New Video Sermons

Two new video sermons have just been added to the Member website. We also have a DVD copy in the Media Library. The

titles are "I See Something in You" by Jim Franks and "Esau, Edom and Bitterness" by Ralph Levy. You can get a copy from the Media Library if you wish.

Men's Leadership Club

Our final meeting of Men's Leadership Club will be on June 6 about an hour after services at the Gladewater hall. It will be our Ladies' Night and we look forward to our special guests. If you are not involved in the club meeting we ask that you remove your belongings by that time to allow the club members to set up for the club meeting in the front of the hall.

Deacon/Elder Meeting

Our next deacon/elder meeting will be Tuesday, June 9, at the Gladewater Hall. Please mark your calendars for that date.

African Fundraiser

We have not received many donations for the African fundraiser. For those who are planning to make donations, please do so before June 5th. We greatly appreciate clean items ready for sale. The sale is scheduled for June 11-12. Donations MUST be delivered to the Gladewater hall between 8 a.m. and 4.30 p.m. until June 5 only.

Elders – Here to serve you

Ken Treybig, Pastor – (903) 844-9246

Les McCullough – (903) 636-5585

John Trotter – (903) 636-4515

Scott Hammer – (903) 845-5189

Melton McNeely – (903) 769-3394

Leon Walker – (903) 636-4928

Contact Rochelle Boyce, 903-636-5656, to make deliveries from now thru May 22. For deliveries from May 25 thru June 5, please contact Charlene McCrady at 903-806-6543.

Foundation Institute

Is Foundation Institute, Center for Biblical Education, for you? What's it like to study one year of Bible at the headquarters of the Church of God, a Worldwide Association? We asked some of this year's students to comment.

One current student says, "I've never been so happy to be outside of my 'comfort zone.' This has been the best opportunity not only to strengthen my beliefs and draw close to God, but also to build character and come out of my shell. Especially if you are shy and afraid to try new things, you should give FI a try. It's a wonderful and safe environment in which to grow."

Here are the words of another student: "Coming to FI, I knew I didn't know much biblically, and it was nerve-wracking not knowing who all was going this year; but after going through most of the FI program I have learned more than I could ever imagine and in a short time made lasting friendships. This program and the people involved have changed my life forever and have given me a strong foundation to apply what I've learned ... in my daily life and hopefully in the Kingdom."

Another student writes: "I was unaware of how much I didn't know before coming to FI, even having grown up in the Church. The program has helped me to begin immediately to fill the

gaps in my knowledge and understanding that I didn't even know were there."

And finally: "Ever had a Bible question you just can't get resolved? Ever wanted to know the background behind what is said in the Bible? Ever wanted to learn how to study with positive results? The atmosphere is warm, and the people are great, regardless of the age differences. Come and experience the Bible all day long."

Foundation Institute is now accepting and processing applications for the 2015-2016 academic year. Applications are due by May 31 and may be downloaded at foundationinstitute.org. The website also answers frequently asked questions about the cost of the program, housing and admission requirements. We invite you to consider a year of study here in Allen, Texas. Please don't hesitate to contact us if you have any questions.

Ministerial Conference

On Sunday, May 31, ministers of the Church of God, an International Association from around the world will gather at the Church office in Allen, TX for an open house and barbecue meal. The theme of the conference, to be held on June 1-2, is "On This Rock I Will Build My Church: *Seeing the Past, Framing the Future*".

A trifold brochure has been sent to be shared with the membership and is on the Information Table. You are welcome to take a look and we would deeply appreciate your prayers—for the safety of everyone traveling and for God's rich blessings on the conference. It

is gratifying to see God's tremendous blessings on us over the past four and half years, yet we realize there much yet to do and seek God's direction, guidance and blessing in working to fulfill the commission Jesus gave.

Camp Application Deadline

As we move through the month of May, we want to remind everyone that each teen and preteen camp has set its own deadline for receiving online applications. Several of them have passed, and others are coming up soon. The deadline for Camp Strong Rock has just been extended a couple of weeks to allow more time for applications.

If you'd like to attend camp this summer—as a camper or as a staff member—please visit the camp website (<http://camps.cogwa.org/>) and apply soon. The application deadline for each camp can be found by clicking on the camp of interest and looking at the details on the right sidebar. We hope to see many of you at camp!

Feast Housing

Regular Feast housing opened last Tuesday. If you need any assistance in finding satisfactory housing, our Feast adviser will be happy to assist you.

Serving at the Feast

Thank you very much for your cooperation and patience in this year's Feast registration process for those living in the United States. Now that we have updated our records and verified everyone's email address, we can offer

you a much simpler way to volunteer to serve at the Feast.

Each site depends heavily on volunteer service from so many of you to help make the Feast run smoothly, to help those who have special needs and to make the Feast so much more enjoyable for everyone. Regardless of the size of the site you're attending, many volunteers are needed; and we hope you will serve as you are able. So, here's how you can volunteer:

You will find a new navigation button that says "Serve at the Feast" on the top of the Feast website (<http://feast.cogwa.org>). Click that button to start the process.

From the page that opens, pick the site you've registered to attend to see the instructions and click on the "Sign Up" button for that site.

When you click "Sign Up," a new box will open that will ask for your name, email address (preferably the same one you used to register), the areas in which you wish to serve, and any special notes that are needed. It's that easy.

A few notes:

- This information will be added to each person's individual record in our database, **so each individual needs to submit a separate form.**)
- Local Festival advisers will need to sign up anyone without Internet access or an email address.
- If you live in the United States and, for some reason, **have not yet registered** for the Feast, please go to <http://feast.cogwa.org/registration/> to **first register** for the Feast.

If you have questions about the registration or volunteer process, just send an email message to

registration@cogwa.org, and we will be happy to help you.

Festival Assistance

Each year many faithful brethren contribute extra funds from their Festival tithe so that other needy members can receive the financial assistance they need to attend the Feast of Tabernacles. Last year these generous contributions enabled over 250 people to attend the Feast who would have been unable to attend otherwise. The Church recognizes its responsibility to see that those contributions are distributed fairly and equitably.

If you have no tithable income or if you have faithfully saved your Festival tithe and will still not have sufficient funds to attend the Feast this year, we will be happy to help where we can. If you think you will need additional funds to be able to attend the Feast this fall, please contact our local Festival adviser, Mr. Eric Case (East Texas) and Mr. Chris Teague (Ruston) or your pastor to get a *Festival Assistance Member Information* form. Complete the form and return it as soon as possible. (All information on the form will be treated as confidential.)

Ministerial Services has asked us to have all assistance applications turned in by June 22, so please pick up the form and return it to your congregation's Festival adviser or your pastor as quickly as possible.

Again, Festival financial assistance is available for those who do not have a tithable income and for those who do not have adequate funds to attend the Feast even though they have

faithfully saved their Festival tithe.

Excess Festival Tithe

Many of us have experienced a variety of ways in which God has fulfilled His promises to bless those who faithfully tithe. Though some faithful members have little or no tithable income, the generosity of their spiritual brothers and sisters has enabled hundreds to share in the blessings of the Feast of Tabernacles each year. Once again this year we will be able to provide financial assistance to those brethren who would be unable to attend the Feast without help.

Government regulations permit charitable organizations to provide a modest amount of financial aid to those in need so they can share in this kind of religious activity. Therefore, the Church has established policies and procedures that allow us to legally, fairly, and equitably provide this special benefit to members who qualify.

If you would like to share your blessings and contribute some of your extra festival tithe to help your brethren attend the Feast, please begin sending in those funds to the Church mailing address in Dallas. You may include those funds with regular tithes and offerings if you wish – just be sure to indicate how much you wish to designate for this special purpose. The correct mailing address is:

COGWA
PO Box 731480
Dallas, TX 75373-1480

Those who send funds electronically through the members' website can also contribute excess festival funds by selecting

“Festival Fund” from the drop-down menu on the donation page.

Thank you in advance from the many who will be able to enjoy the Feast of Tabernacles this year as a result of your generosity in sharing the blessings God has given you.

Tithe of the Tithe

Years ago the Church of God established a tradition of asking members to contribute a tenth of their festival tithe – known as a “tithe of the tithe” – to the Church to cover the many expenses incurred in providing so much of what we enjoy at the Feast. These expenses include hall rent, office equipment, audio and video equipment, decorations, activities, etc. Since all of us benefit from these items, it is appropriate that we contribute a portion of the festival tithe we have saved to meet those expenses. If you are unable to contribute a full tenth of your festival tithe but would still like to help out, all such contributions are still appreciated.

If you send a contribution to the Church mailing address in Dallas to help meet these Feast expenses, please label it “tithe of the tithe” so we will know your intent. You may include those funds with regular tithes and offerings if you wish – just clearly indicate how much you wish to designate for this purpose. The correct mailing address is:

COGWA
PO Box 731480
Dallas, TX 75373-1480

Those who send funds electronically through the members’ website can also contribute “tithe of the tithe” funds by se-

lecting “Festival Fund” from the drop-down menu on the donation page.

Again, thank you for your generosity in helping to make the Feast special for all of us.