

### ***From the Pastor***

The name Pentecost is only found in the New Testament. The name comes from the Greek word pentekoste—pronounced pen-tay-kos-tay. The word literally means “fiftieth.”

The name comes from the fact that this day is the fiftieth day from the offering of the wave sheaf that marked the beginning of the spring harvest—the harvest of the firstfruits of the year’s harvest.

“And you shall count for yourselves from the day after the Sabbath, from the day that you brought the sheaf of the wave offering: seven Sabbaths shall be completed. Count fifty days to the day after the seventh Sabbath... You shall bring from your habitations two wave loaves of two-tenths of an ephah. They shall be of fine flour; they shall be baked with leaven. They are the firstfruits to the Lord.” (Leviticus 23:15-17)

The Bible never actually uses the term Feast of Firstfruits. This is a name we have given it from several passages combined and shortened.

In Exodus 23:16 the feast is referred to as “the Feast of Harvest, the firstfruits of your labors.”

In Exodus 34:22 the feast is referred to as “the Feast of Weeks, of the firstfruits of the wheat harvest.”

Numbers 28:26 records, “Also on the day of the firstfruits, when you bring a new grain offering to the Lord at your Feast of Weeks...”

In Deuteronomy 16:9-10 we read, “You shall count seven weeks for yourself; begin to count the seven weeks from the time you begin to put the sickle to the grain [from the wave sheaf offering that marked the beginning of the spring harvest]. Then you shall keep the Feast of Weeks to the Lord your God with the tribute of a freewill offering from your hand, which you shall give as the Lord your God blesses you.”

As we can see, the term “firstfruits” is used in many of the references to this feast. One passage even calls it the “day of firstfruits.” As a result we have simply called it the Feast of Firstfruits. This emphasizes the fact that this first harvest is not the whole year’s harvest. It is just the beginning of the year’s harvest. In God’s plan for salvation this reveals an important truth that we—His people—understand. Today God is calling Firstfruits. Being a part of the Firstfruits of God’s family is an awesome calling.

	<b>Victoria</b>	<b>Corpus Christi</b>	<b>Harlingen</b>
Sunset Today in:	8:02pm	8:02pm	8:01pm
Sunset Friday 5-5	8:06pm	8:05pm	8:04pm

## **Church of God South Texas** **Victoria - Corpus Christi - Harlingen**



April 29, 2017

### **Victoria**

*Sermon:* Steve Moody

### **Corpus Christi**

*Sermonette:* In Accord DVD

*Sermon:* Arnold Mendez

### **Harlingen**

*Sermonette:* Camp DVD/In Accord DVD

*Sermon:* Arnold Mendez

“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 1:8

## Announcements and Schedule

<b>Sabbath 4/29</b>	Regular times and locations for Corpus Christi, San Antonio, Harlingen, & Victoria.
<b>Sabbath 5/6</b>	Regular times and locations for all congregations. Mr. Moody will be in Corpus Christi. Mr. Palmer will be in San Antonio. Mr. Chapman will be in Victoria. There will be a DVD sermon in Harlingen.

### 2017 Camp Applications

The COGWA Youth Camps team is happy to announce that on March 1 the application system opened to begin taking 2017 applications. We will once again be using the COGWA Portal system, but we encourage everyone to start the process by reading the article titled “Camp Application System” on the main page of the camp website (<http://camps.cogwa.org>). There are some specific points we would like you to be aware of before you begin your application.

We think you will find that applying via this new system is faster and simpler. As mentioned in the article, much of your information is retained for subsequent years’ applications and needs only to be reviewed (and edited if changes are needed).

For your convenience, here is a direct link to the article with further explanation and additional information: “Camp Application System.”

### Camp Lone Star from Ken Giese

We are pleased to announce that we have extended the application deadline for PT Camp Lone Star to Monday, May 1st. We still have space for campers and would like to encourage you to send us your children’s applications. We will be making our staff assignments soon, so those of you interested in serving on our staff (teens and adults) should complete your applications ASAP. We look forward to welcoming you to Camp Lone Star!

<http://camps.cogwa.org/camps/camp-lone-star/>

### Festival registration

Please remember to register for the Feast of Tabernacles if you have not done so as yet. If you registered last year (and remember your username and password), there is only a one-step process registering this year. If you need help, please see your Festival adviser.

Members without Internet access should be assisted by their local Festival adviser.

### FT 2017: Festival Youth Instruction Volunteers

This year we will once again be offering Festival Youth Instruction at many U.S. Festival sites—and we will need volunteers to teach these lessons. Unfortunately, the option to volunteer for Festival Youth Instruction was inadvertently left off on the first day of registration. So if you registered for the Feast on Sunday, April 16, and would be willing to serve on our Festival Youth Instruction teaching team, please go back to the COGWA member portal, log in, click on “Feast of Tabernacles 2017” and then click on the “Edit Your Registration” button and add Festival Youth Instruction under the service areas. Thank you for your dedication to our children!

### Upcoming Activities: Dates to Remember

**San Antonio Potluck:** The next regularly scheduled potluck will be May 6.

**Corpus Christi:** May 20<sup>th</sup> Brown Bag Social after services.

**Harlingen:** June 3<sup>rd</sup> Bible Study and Pot Luck Social after services.

**Second Passover:** May 10, 2017, is the second Passover day, with services conducted shortly after sunset the night before (Tuesday evening, May 9).