

Memorial Feasts

by Sam Willcut

In the New Testament, Christians kept a memorial that signified the death of our Savior, Jesus Christ (1 Cor. 11:23-26). Christians keep this memorial every first day of the week (cf. Acts 20:7). Since Christianity was offered to the Jews first (cf. Matt. 10:6; Acts 1:8; Rom. 1:16), the Jews would be familiar with keeping memorial feasts. Among the many Jewish feasts, the Jews observed three prominent annual feasts in Jerusalem every year that served as memorials for important events in their past or principles that God wanted them to remember. Consider the correlation of these Jewish feasts and the Lord's Supper.

The first feast is the Feast of Unleavened Bread, which Jews observed in the beginning with the Passover (Lev. 23:4-8). The Passover Feast was to remind them of their origin as a nation when the death angel passed over their firstborn when they observed such and paved the way for them to leave Egyptian bondage. The Feast of Unleavened Bread, which immediately followed this, signified that they were to be free from corruption and that they were distinct from the other heathen nations around them.

The second feast is the Feast of Pentecost, which is also the Feast of First-fruits or the Feast of Harvest (Lev. 23:9-22). This feast indicated that God is the benefactor of all blessings, including the harvest of the earth. The fruit of the land belongs to Him. The first fruits not only symbolize the best, but it also represents the rest of the harvest, because when they offered their first fruits, they were consecrating the rest of the whole harvest.

The third annual feast is the Feast of Tabernacles, or the Feast of Ingathering (Lev. 23:33-44). This joyous feast indicated a completed harvest. God

intended this feast to remind them of how they lived in the wilderness and the lessons they should learn from their ancestors when they wandered through the wilderness, including and especially the fact that God miraculously took care of them the entire trip.

Now, what is significant about all three of these most important Jewish memorial feasts is that they offer spiritual lessons which are all encapsulated in the single important memorial feast of the New Testament—the Lord's Supper. Jesus is our Passover Lamb (John 1:29; 1 Cor. 5:7), which points to the Feast of the Unleavened Bread. The same emblems used in such (Matt. 26:26-29) offer the same lessons for us—Jesus offered Himself without spot and blemish (1 Pet. 2:21-24) as bread without leaven. Just as He was free from corruption, we are to strive to live free from corruption (2 Cor. 6:17-7:1). We are to be distinct from the world (1 Pet. 2:9). In addition, just as God has provided everything we need for life and godliness (2 Pet. 1:3), including every spiritual blessing inherent within redemption (Eph. 1:3), we should respond by giving our very best to God (Matt. 6:33). These lessons point to the Feast of Pentecost, not to mention the fact that the church began on this day, because Acts 2 shows the first fruits of the gospel. Then, just as the Feast of Tabernacles was to remind them of their heritage, and the fact that God provided for them, we are to remember that God delivered us from the bondage of sin, providing for our every need (cf. Eph. 2:11-13).

I hope that these thoughts will enrich our thoughts and minds as we look forward to partaking of the Lord's Supper each first day of the week.

THE POWER OF
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how can a single event
change eternity?

October 11-14

Sunday through Wednesday beginning at 6 pm

with Clint Brown, Rick Brumback, BJ Clarke
Steve Higginbotham, Wayne Jones,
David Shannon, and Michael Whitworth

westhillchurchofchrist.org

Correspondence/Encouragement

Inmate Correspondence:

Zachory Cabano #01886823
Hutchins Unit
1500 E. Langdon Rd.
Dallas, TX 75241

Paul Jones #01934698
Bradshaw Unit
PO Box 9000
Henderson, TX 75653

Missions Correspondence:

Cherokee Home for Children
Director: Delton McGuire
PO Box 295
Cherokee, TX 76832
Email: chc@centex.net

New Zealand Harvest Missions

James & Emily Cammock
PO Box 412
Waikato Mail Centre
Hamilton 3240
New Zealand
Email: church-of-christ-cammock@hotmail.com

La Poynor Prison Ministry

Steve & Carrie Handley
11353 CR 4345
La Rue, TX 75770
Email: shandley56@gmail.com

WVBS Online School

Director: Russell Haffner
25 Lantana Ln.
Maxwell, TX 78656
Website: school.wvbs.org

Southwest School of Bible Studies:

Kati Haffner (2nd Year Student)
1215 W. Slaughter Ln. #1413
Austin, TX 78748

Michelle McWhorter (2nd Year Student)
42301 FM 3159
Canyon Lake, TX 78133

Corey Tackett (1st Year Student)
1215 W. Slaughter Ln. #914
Austin, TX 78748

Encouragement:

Bobbie Allen
PO Box 67
Rice, TX 75155

Aline Barrett
296 FM 2555
Corsicana, TX 75110

Terry & Veran Barrett
300 FM 2555
Corsicana, TX 75110

Don & Shirley Bowen
1100 Woodcastle
Corsicana, TX 75110

Wanda Brown
3002 W. 2nd Ave. #206
Corsicana, TX 75110

JoAnn Chambers
3002 W. 2nd Ave. #400
Corsicana, TX 75110

Eric Dickey
105 Boyd Ave.
Corsicana, TX 75110

Greg & Cody Dickey
1808 Dogwood Trail
Corsicana, TX 75110

Julie Dilbeck
1716 Bowie Circle
Corsicana, TX 75110

Meagan Gould
800 Medinah
Corsicana, TX 75110

Buster Hayes
2415 W. Collin St.
Corsicana, TX 75110

Marjorie King
304 SECR 2190
Corsicana, TX 75109

Justin Mahoney
805 Oxford
Corsicana, TX 75110

Eula Parrish
325 FM 55
Purdon, TX 76679

Irene Ross
820 N. 23 1/2 St.
Corsicana, TX 75110

Jewel Rutherford
3004 W. 2nd Ave. #623
Corsicana, TX 75110

Jan Sain
809 Ambassador
Corsicana, TX 75110

Willie & Connie Winters
%Heritage Oaks West
3300 W. 2nd Ave.
Corsicana, TX 75110

Mission Works

Westhill Works
Benevolence Program

Local Works
Cherokee Children's Home - www.chc4kids.org
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The Truth in Love - www.ttil.tv
WVBS Online School - school.wvbs.org

Prison Works
La Poynor Prison Ministry - Steve & Carrie Handley

Foreign Works
New Zealand Harvest Missions - James & Emily Cammock

Leadership

Elders
Percell Milton - 903.673.1819
Paul Slaughter - 903.872.1228
Paul Stewart - 903.872.3464
Darwin Thomas - 903.695.0176

Deacons
James Ainsworth - 903.872.1390
Scott Barham - 903.641.0133
David Baumgartner - 903.654.4057
Zach Drain - 903.521.6055
Dan Gibson - 903.641.9587
Joshua Haden - 903.602.9645
Micah Haden - 903.673.1177
James Horn - 903.599.9114

Michael Jones - 214.803.5984
Roy McCullough - 903.872.2069
Greg Olsen - 903.654.1406
James Olsen - 903.874.8918
Rusty Owens - 903.695.0095
Billy Roughton - 903.654.4032
Dickie Russell - 903.874.4457
David Shastid - 903.257.6464
Brent Stewart - 903.641.9052
Justin Williams 903.875.8288

Ministers
Sam Dilbeck - 903.229.8415 (Pulpit)
Cory Myers - 512.627.6672 (Youth & Family)
Tim Cooke - 903.641.5515 (Seniors)

Prayer List

Bud Moore fell Tuesday and fractured his shoulder. He is home recovering.

Willie Winters is in Heritage Oaks West for rehab.

Kelly Bland, granddaughter of Gayle & Christine Garner, had surgery Thursday to fix a hole in her eardrum. Please, pray for her recovery.

Congratulations to Terry & Veran Barrett on the birth of twin granddaughters River Belle & Kennedy Leigh on Thursday evening. Keep Jason and his wife and the babies in your prayers.

Our Love & Sympathy go out to Greg, Cody, & Eric Dickey and their family at the passing of sister Florence Dickey. Her service was held Thursday.

Continue to Remember: Don Bowen, Mary Butler, Julie Dilbeck, Buster Hayes, Velma McDougald, Eula Parrish, Frankie Ellison, and Meagan Gould.

Service Men: Clay Bayes, Jason Book, Alston Compton, Robert Johnson, Ryan Payne, Douglas Ramsey, Ryan Stewart, Morgan Weaver, and Payton Weaver

Announcements

“To Our Church Family at Westhill, Sam and I are so thankful for the love and care you have showered on us while I’ve been taking new treatments for MS. We finished all five rounds, which left me very weak and immune-compromised. I’m looking forward to returning to worship with you in a few weeks.” We love you all, Julie Dilbeck

Westhill Ladies Lunch (Dutch treat) this Wed., the 9th, to celebrate September birthdays. We’ll meet at Applebee’s at 11:30. All ladies are invited, ESPECIALLY those with September birthdays.

Youth Parents - If you did not receive the youth newsletter email and would like to get those monthly, please give us your current email address so we can add you to the list.

Youth Progressive Dinner Tomorrow. We’ll leave the building at 4:30 PM and be back by 9:00 PM.

The Westhill Ladies Retreat is coming up September 25 & 26. Please, see Lanette Stewart for room availability or if you have any questions.

Our Lectureship, “The Power of One,” is coming up October 11-14. Invitation cards are available at the back of the auditorium.

Save the Date: Seniors (50+) Seminar with Jeff Jenkins, Monday, November 9th at 7:00 pm.

Wylie Church of Christ invites our ladies to their Ladies’ Day, Saturday, September 12 at 9:00 AM.

Granbury Street Church of Christ in Cleburne is hosting a series of gospel lessons on “The Christian World View” with guest speaker Richard Melson September 27-30.

Birthdays This Week

September 7 - Scott Barham, Hannah Blaylock, Danielle Gibson

September 8 - David Dilbeck

September 9 - Ashley Jones, Dalton Shastid

September 11 - Dickie Russell

September 12 - Marcus Ford

Next Week’s Adult Class

Preparation for Ministry

Mat. 4:1-11; Mark 1:12-13; Luke 4:1-13; John 1:35-51

Records for August 31, 2015

Bible Class	170
AM Worship.....	258
PM Worship	155
Wednesday	175
Contribution	\$8,656.37

Privileged to Serve

Song Leader Cory Myers

Opening Prayer Larry Jayroe

Communion Leader James Olsen

Communion Servers

David Baumgartner Tyler Baumgartner

Joe Glass Ken Green

Wade Hall Jimmy Horn

Don Ivy Larry Jayroe

Aubrey Parrish Wayne Prater

Austin Roughton Gene Steinkraus

Mike Wylie

Closing Prayer James Horn

Nursery Melissa Bearden & Ellie Stewart

PM Song Leader Joshua Haden

PM Opening Prayer Brian Hand

PM Closing Prayer David Mahoney

Wed. Song Leader Justin Williams

Wed. Devotional Scott Barham

Sept. Contact Elder Darwin Thomas - 903.695.0176