

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## Church of God Big Sandy

ChurchofGodBigSandy.com

Nov. 18, 2017 • 2:00 p.m. • Sunset 5:18

### Bible studies and classes

Interactive study (1:00)	Dave Havir
Bible study (2:00)	Stan West
Teen class	Carol Bald
Kids' class	Linda Cartwright

### Order of service

Song leader	Ron Avey
Pianist	Dixon Cartwright
Scripture reading	Revelation 2:18-29 by Reg Killingley
Sermon	Dave Havir

### Quick takes

1. Thank you—Louis Harder, Vachelle Case Harder and their families would like to thank the congregation for all the kindness shown to them surrounding the wedding last Saturday night—for the use of the building, for those who helped in preparation of the event and for those who served that evening. Many people contributed to make their night so special.
2. Community Thanksgiving Church service—The congregations in Big Sandy have scheduled their community Thanksgiving church service for Sunday evening (5:00) on Nov. 19. Individuals from various congregations will present “a brief thought or insight” that should last for only five to seven minutes. Dave Havir has agreed to participate with a short presentation. The location is the First Baptist church (on 155 north). Finger foods will be provided by each church.
3. Edifying the Body—This week’s article is “Motherhood Matters” by Eric Metaxas.
4. Among Friends—The week’s article is “Comments About Acts 23” by Dave Havir.
5. Eye on the World—This week’s “Eye on the World” is 30 pages.

## Tragedy strikes a community

Terry Post is the pastor of the South Texas Church of God. Although the Posts officially live in La Vernia, they are closer to Sutherland Springs, where the recent church shooting occurred. They live six miles from the church. Some of the children went to school in La Vernia, but others went to school in Floresville.

### By Terry Post

**L**A VERNIA, Texas—A somber dark cloud moved over our small community on Nov. 5 when a gunman opened fire at the Sutherland Springs Baptist Church. Twenty-six were killed and 20 were injured.

Very few families in this area were not affected in one way or another. My wife's second cousin, Peggy Warden, was killed shielding her grandson, Zach Poston, from the bullets. He received six gunshots, which shattered his arms, wrists and legs. He will survive but will probably have over

40 surgeries to rebuild the damage.

An employee of ours was present also. Bradley was there with his wife and young daughter. They all escaped injury but saw their cousin (the pastor's daughter) shot to death along with all the other victims.

Also, the son of one of our longtime friends was shot in the back and is paralyzed.

Many of the first responders are distantly kin to us and are severely traumatized.

The entire community is in desperate need of our prayers. As one minister stated: "These people met Satan face to face."

## Prayer updates

In last week's bulletin, we mentioned that **Al Donahue** was in Mother Frances Hospital in Tyler dealing with the following situations—(1) having a urinary-tract infection, (2) having a bladder biopsy to explore a "mass" in his bladder, (3) hearing that there was no tumor or cancer in the bladder and (4) hearing about a scheduled surgery for Tuesday to remove his enlarged prostate. Al reports that the prostate-removal surgery on Tuesday went well. But on Friday a doctor told him that he does have bladder cancer. You can imagine how this new diagnosis affected the family—after they were told that there was no tumor or cancer. Al is scheduled to be released on Monday, and he anticipates considering possible options for dealing with the new diagnosis. He is in room 5544.

**Stan Roberts**, who had gallbladder surgery on Oct. 31, has been dealing with an issue (nausea relief) since then. Here are excerpts from an update that **Steve Roberts** sent to **Dave Havir** about his dad: "He started a synthetic THC regimen yesterday [Wednesday] in hopes of some nausea relief. Any chemo treatments for the lung and colon cancers will start after the nausea problem is resolved. Dad, who weighed 190 lbs. in midsummer, is now 145 lbs. Dad has a wonderful attitude towards all of this, and it really helps me get through it. Thank everyone for the cards and letters. Thank you for your concern."

In last week's bulletin, we mentioned that **Eli Benedict** has been dealing with skin cancer around his knee. This week, we want to mention that he also has some swelling and a rash on his leg and arms.

**Sonny Rosenberger** had difficulty this week with low energy and troublesome breathing.

**Vi Lehman** continues to deal with low energy, back pain and leg pain on many days. She mentioned that she misses seeing people at church.

On Tuesday, **Marcia Chambers** went to the doctor. While she continues to get stronger, she is anticipating six more weeks of modified activity in her life.

**Laura Moran** reports that she is feeling better.

On Friday, **Daniel Botha** went for a cancer screening for his chest. (This present screening occurred because a previous screening when he was dealing with prostate cancer revealed a spot in his chest. He expects to hear the results shortly.) Mr. Botha and **Helen** are looking forward to leaving this week with their family to visit the Grand Canyon.

On Tuesday, **Gracie Feaker** was moved to Park Place Rehabilitation in Tyler (2450 E. Fifth St.). As many people know, most rehab assignments are geared for 20 days. Gracie is hoping to be home for Thanksgiving. She is in room 136.

Here are excerpts from an update from **Kim Skelton** concerning her husband, **Wynn**: "It has been two weeks since the accident. The swelling has virtually all gone away, the bruising has faded tremendously around the eyes, and he has not taken pain medicine for a couple of days. He is walking around and the ophthalmologist was impressed with how much the swelling has gone down in the right eye. It still appears like no permanent damage, and the eye is halfway open. It is still an effort to blink because of the slow process in the healing of the nerve damage on the right side of his face. He does have some slight double vision in the right eye (when looking to the left, up and down), but that should heal. We are still trying to get the CAT scans from the San Antonio hospital." Last week, we mentioned that he is scheduled to see a neurologist on Nov. 28 to find the cause of this passing-out scenario.

## New prayer requests

**Willie Choate** reports that he has missed a number of church services because of a urinary-tract infection. Although he is feeling much better, he may wait until next week to get back to see us.

**Christian Roberts** of Shreveport, La. (13-year-old son of **Gramm** and **April Roberts** and grandson of **Stan** and **Roxanna West**), recently went to an orthodontist and was diagnosed with a growth in his lower jaw. Visual indications are consistent with a benign tumor. A biopsy is being scheduled to verify it.

On Tuesday, **John Havir** of Huntington, W.Va., had hernia surgery. The doctor said he could be back to work in a week, but he should lift only 10 lbs. for six weeks.

**Leon Sexton** of Chiang Mai, Thailand, has suffered a stroke.

**Rose Nohel** of Ann Arbor, Mich., was diagnosed with ALS.

**Lloyd McKin** of Knoxville, Tenn., who has previously dealt with leukemia and who has had multiple malignant skin cancers removed, has been diagnosed with cancer of the eye. He is scheduled to see a specialist on Monday.

## “Comments About Acts 23”

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 Nov. 18, 2017.

**By Dave Havir**

**B**IG SANDY, Texas—Recently, I began a series of brief articles to discuss chapters in the book of Acts. This week, we will talk about chapter 23.

May this project encourage you to review the valuable history found in the book of Acts.

### Overview of Paul’s travels

As we entered into Acts 13, we began reading about Paul’s missionary journeys. According to some Bible commentaries, the trips can be categorized in the following manner.

■ First missionary journey—Acts 13:1 until Acts 14:28

■ Second missionary journey—Acts 15:36 until Acts 18:22

■ Third missionary journey—Acts 18:23 until Acts 21:16

■ Trip to Rome—Acts 21:17 until Acts 28:31

### To the Council

Last week, in Acts 22, we read how the apostle Paul began his defense before his accusers. He continued his defense in chapter 23.

■ Paul explained that he lived in good conscience before God (Acts 23:1).

■ The high priest Ananias commanded people to strike Paul on the mouth (verse 2).

■ Paul called Ananias a “whitewashed wall” and rebuked Ananias for striking him (verse 3).

**Acts 23:3**—“Then Paul said to him, ‘God will strike you, you whitewashed wall! For you sit to judge me according to the law, and do you command me to be struck contrary to the law?’ ”

■ Someone asked Paul: “Do you revile God’s high priest?” (verse 4).

■ Paul acknowledged that he did not know that the person he had rebuked was

the high priest and paraphrased Exodus 22:28 (verse 5).

**Acts 23:5**—“Then Paul said, ‘I did not know, brethren, that he was the high priest; for it is written, “You shall not speak evil of a ruler of your people.” ’ ”

■ Then, Paul used wisdom to divert attention away from himself and toward a historical conflict among the religious people of that time (verses 6-8). He reminded the audience of his background as a Pharisee and of his belief in a resurrection of the dead.

**Acts 23:7-8**—“And when he had said this, a dissension arose between the Pharisees and the Sadducees; and the assembly was divided. For Sadducees say that there is no resurrection—and no angel or spirit; but the Pharisees confess both.”

■ Because of Paul’s comment, the Pharisees showed support for him (verse 9), and the commander took him away from the conflict (verse 10).

■ The Lord communicated to Paul that, as he had testified for Him in Jerusalem, he was also going to bear witness of Him in Rome (verse 11).

### Plot against Paul

■ Forty Jews took an oath (that included fasting) to kill Paul (verses 12-15).

■ Paul’s nephew overheard talk about the ambush and warned Paul (verse 16).

■ Paul sent his nephew to tell the commander about the plot (verses 17-21).

■ The commander assigned a large contingent of soldiers to protect Paul as he sent Paul to Felix the governor (verses 22-24).

■ The commander sent a letter to Felix, telling him about the plot to kill Paul (verses 25-30).

■ The soldiers delivered Paul and the letter to Felix in Caesarea (verses 31-33).

■ Felix announced that he would listen to Paul when his accusers also arrived at Caesarea (verses 34-35).