

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Church of God Big Sandy

ChurchofGodBigSandy.com

Dec. 2, 2017 • 2:00 p.m. • Sunset 5:13

Bible studies and classes

Interactive study (1:00)	Dixon Cartwright
Bible study (2:00)	Neil Mclver
Teen class	Jeanine Case
Kids' class	Linda Cartwright

Order of service

Song leader	Neil Mclver
Pianist	Dixon Cartwright
Scripture reading	Revelation 3:7-13 by Al Donahue
Sermon	Ron Avey

Quick takes

1. Interrelating with other congregations—Today, Dave Havar is giving a sermon at the South Texas Church of God, pastored by Terry Post. (You might recall that an article by Mr. Post was in the Nov. 18 bulletin mentioning the church shooting that occurred on Sunday, Nov. 5, at the Sutherland Springs Baptist Church—which is six miles from the Posts' home.) Messrs. Post and Havar are planning to visit the church in Sutherland Springs (actually in a tent beside the church building) tomorrow as a gesture of supporting those people going through their trials.
2. Foster barn dance—The annual barn dance that has been traditionally organized by Morris and Linda Foster during the Thanksgiving season will be held on Dec. 30.
3. Edifying the Body—This week's article is "Remembering the Protestant Reformation" by Reg Killingley.
4. Among Friends—The week's article is "Comments About Acts 25" by Dave Havar.
5. Eye on the World—This week's "Eye on the World" is 24 pages.

Prayer updates

On Thursday, **Al Donahue** drove for the first time since his recent hospitalization. (One of his reasons for driving to Big Sandy was for another prayer session with Dave Havar.) He appreciates the opportunity of presently staying in Tyler with one of his daughters. He appreciates those individuals who responded to his request for ideas about juicing. He is scheduled to see a doctor on Dec. 8 and to have a PET scan.

As was mentioned in last week's bulletin, **Eli Benedict** (who had been dealing with skin cancer around his knee) began dealing with a new challenge—the swelling and a rash on his leg and arms. This week, some family members were concerned that Mr. Benedict had not gone to a medical doctor. As a result of nudging from family members, the Benedicts went to the ER of Good Shepherd Medical Center in Longview at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday to determine if the swelling and rash were due to cellulitis. The Benedicts sat in the ER without treatment until midnight. When the doctor was able to spend time with them, he ruled out cellulitis. The doctor gave some medicine and sent them home at 1:00 a.m. on Wednesday. Mr. Benedict went to a doctor appointment on Wednesday afternoon and was given a prescription for an antibiotic. On Thursday, the antibiotic was changed when Mr. Benedict had an apparent reaction. They request your prayers for continuing improvement.

Sonny Rosenberger appreciates your prayers for his dealing with low energy and troublesome breathing.

On Monday, **Daniel** and **Helen Botha** were able to return from their family trip to the Grand Canyon.

On Sunday, **Gracie Feaker** was able to go home.

Here are excerpts from an update from **Kim Skelton** about **Wynn**: “We saw the neurologist yesterday morning, who went into much detail about the possible causes of ‘syncope,’ or passing out. One of the issues he is looking into is one of Wynn’s blood-pressure med—which is a beta blocker and is a fairly high dose of it. The doc is not a fan of beta blockers and the side effects associated with them. He saw no need for us to travel back to San Antonio just to read another CAT scan. He is ordering an MRI and an MRA (which are done at the same time, but the MRA then focuses on the blood vessels and arteries). He wants to check the brain stem, where the seventh cranial nerve is located and then travels up behind the ear and to the face. He wants to be able to rule out a number of things, so we are waiting for insurance to approve (seven to 10 days) and then the tests can be ordered. Wynn is now able to work by E-mail by calling customers and doing paperwork. He is even able to sit in the woods to hunt deer (because the deer stands for rifle season are ground level).”

Thought for the week

The day of death is better than the day of one's birth.—*Ecclesiastes 7:1*

New prayer requests

On Monday evening, **Martha McIver** went to a hospital in Colorado Springs, Colo., and was diagnosed with a urinary-tract infection. She was released on Thursday. She and **Neil** were expected to return home yesterday.

Ruby Patterson of Hockley (mother of **Linda Moers**, who lives on the Moerses' property 40 miles from Houston) had been dealing with health conditions of old age (heart failure, fluid on the lungs, etc.) for several years and was recently hospitalized in Houston. She was expected to be placed in a hospice facility in Houston.

Ken Treybig of a local Church of God organization burned his hands while burning brush this week. Here are excerpts from an update: "While trying to break off a limb to put in the fire, I slipped and fell into the fire. I pushed off with my hands to keep from face-planting and received some burns on both hands. I have second-degree burns on the side and palm of both hands—more on the right hand. The skin is still intact, so they cleaned it. I'm wrapping it and trying to treat it gently to avoid any infection. Since the burn on the right hand might be third degree, I have an appointment at Parkland Burn Clinic in Dallas Friday morning [yesterday]."

Suffering of the Son

Luke 11:53-54—And as He said these things to them, the scribes and the Pharisees began to assail Him vehemently, and to cross-examine Him about many things, lying in wait for Him, and seeking to catch Him in something He might say, that they might accuse Him.

Luke 20:20—So they watched Him, and sent spies who pretended to be righteous, that they might seize on His words, in order to deliver Him to the power and the authority of the governor.

Luke 22:44—And being in agony, He prayed more earnestly. Then His sweat became like great drops of blood falling down to the ground.

Luke 22:48—But Jesus said to him, "Judas, are you betraying the Son of Man with a kiss?"

Luke 22:61—And the Lord turned and looked at Peter. And Peter remembered the word of the Lord, how He had said to him, "Before the rooster crows, you will deny Me three times."

Hebrews 4:14-15—Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin.

Hebrews 5:7-8—Who, in the days of His flesh, when He had offered up prayers and supplications, with vehement cries and tears to Him who was able to save Him from death, and was heard because of His godly fear, though He was a Son, yet He learned obedience by the things which He suffered.

“Comments About Acts 25”

This article is from the “Among Friends” section of the Church of God Big Sandy’s Web site, churchofgodbigandy.com. It was posted for the weekend of Dec. 2, 2017.

By Dave Havir

BIG 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 25.

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

Appealed unto Caesar

Last week in Acts 24, we mentioned how Felix procrastinated in his dealing with the apostle Paul and Porcius Festus succeeded Felix after two years (Acts 24:26).

- When Festus traveled from Caesarea to Jerusalem (Acts 25:1), the high priest and other chief men of the Jews petitioned Festus to take Paul to Jerusalem, as they planned to ambush Paul and kill him (verses 2-3).

- Festus responded that Paul would remain in Caesarea (verse 4) and invited people to go there to make accusations against Paul there (verse 5).

- Back in Caesarea, Festus commanded that Paul be brought to the judgment seat (verse 6).

- The Jews from Jerusalem brought serious complaints against Paul (verse 7).

- Paul answered for himself (verse 8).

Acts 25:8—“While he answered for himself, ‘Neither against the law of the

Jews, nor against the temple, nor against Caesar have I offended in anything at all.’ ”

- Festus was willing to do the Jews a favor and asked Paul if he was willing to travel to Jerusalem to be judged there (verse 9).

- Paul appealed unto Caesar’s judgment seat (verses 10-11).

Acts 25:10-11—“So Paul said, ‘I stand at Caesar’s judgment seat, where I ought to be judged. To the Jews I have done no wrong, as you very well know. For if I am an offender, or have committed anything deserving of death, I do not object to dying; but if there is nothing in these things of which these men accuse me, no one can deliver me to them. I appeal to Caesar.’ ”

- After conferring with the council, Festus decreed that Paul would go to Caesar (verse 12).

Before Agrippa

- When King Agrippa and Bernice came to see Festus (verse 13), Festus explained Paul’s case to the king (verses 14-21).

- King Agrippa decided to meet Paul (verse 22).

- Paul was brought before Agrippa and Bernice (verse 23).

- Festus reminded Agrippa how the Jews accused Paul (verse 24), but he had concluded that Paul had not done anything worthy of death (verse 25).

- Festus claimed that after Agrippa examined Paul, Festus would have some official charges to write about Paul (verses 26-27).

Acts 26 provides details about what Paul said before King Agrippa.

Interesting fact

It is interesting to note that Paul used his Roman citizenship on three occasions—twice to escape a bad situation (Acts 16:37 and Acts 22:25-30) and once to preach the gospel (Acts 25:10-11).