

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Church of God Big Sandy

ChurchofGodBigSandy.com

Dec. 10, 2016 • 2:00 p.m. • Sunset 5:14

Service next Sabbath: 2:00 p.m.

Order of service

Song leader	Clay Forrestier
Pianist	Dixon Cartwright
First sermon	Dave Havir
Teen class—Library	Jeanine Case
Kids' class—Classroom #2	Mindy Forrestier
Second sermon	Dave Havir

Quick takes

1. Very rare to cancel church service—It is the custom of our congregation to avoid canceling our church service due to inclement weather. Even with a potential of lower attendance in the building due to weather in our area, we still hope to serve the audience on the website.
2. Main reason for canceling church service—Our main reason for canceling a church service is the loss of electricity.
3. Equipment in the building fixed—As was posted prominently on the front page of our church website, severe weather (including lightning) in East Texas a few weeks ago caused damage to some of our equipment in the building—including three pieces of equipment in the sound booth and one piece of equipment with the telephone system.
4. Telephone hookup temporarily suspended—Due to disappointment with the company that we have used for the weekly telephone hookup for the church service, we have suspended that service as we look for a different company. We apologize for any inconvenience.
5. Pastor's trip postponed—Dave Havir apologizes to the brethren in Arizona for postponing his scheduled trip there this weekend. Following his cataract surgery on Tuesday, he felt a need to devote full attention to his regimen of eyedrops four times each day.

6. Church social on Dec. 31—We are planning for a winter church social on Saturday evening, Dec. 31.
 - Steven Gibson will be a guest speaker
 - A potluck meal is scheduled
 - The parade of costumes will occur after the potluck
 - We have rented some bounce houses to be set up in the building
7. Edifying the Body—This week's article is "What Is Astrourfing?" by Dave Havir.
8. Among Friends—This week's article is "Did God Micromanage David?" by Dave Havir.
9. Eye on the World—This week's "Eye on the World" is 18 pages.

Prayer updates

Although **Boyd Payne** continues to have having breathing challenges (due to anxiety), he was able to avoid making any trips this week to an emergency room. In last week's bulletin, we mentioned that he was scheduled to return to his doctor in Plano for a follow-up visit after his recent heart-valve surgery. However, due to the anticipation of bad weather yesterday, that appointment was postponed until Monday.

Gracie Feaker reports that she did not have a good week of sleeping due to her breathing challenges and her swollen ankles. **Ron** reports that he had a pretty good week of sleeping.

Last week, we mentioned that, although **Betty Foster's** ribs had healed, she was still dealing with regular back pain. As is turned out, her son **Morris Foster** took her to an ER on Wednesday night. The doctors first suspected kidney stones, but later believed her to have a kidney infection. They returned home at 5:45 a.m. on Thursday.

Lisa Smith reports that her gall-bladder surgery on Monday went fine, but that she was still a little sick to her stomach later in the week.

In the Sept. 10 bulletin, we mentioned **Tiffany Tomblin** of Lewisville (35-year-old daughter of **Jimmy** and **Jean Rogers** of Denton) was diagnosed with breast cancer. The Rogerses report that their daughter is doing well and that they appreciate your prayers.

In the Nov. 5 bulletin, we mentioned that **Jean Rogers** of Denton, who hurt her shoulder in a fall on Oct. 13 and who had shoulder-repair surgery on Oct. 28. She reports that she is recovering well after the major shoulder surgery and that she and her husband, **Jimmy**, appreciate your prayers.

In the Nov. 26 bulletin, we mentioned that **Cindy McLendon** of a local Church of God fellowship went to a local hospital due to ongoing health challenges. We learned that she went back to a hospital with "symptoms of a heart attack" (which were added to her previous symptoms). She and **Charles** appreciate your prayers.

In last week's bulletin, we mentioned that the surgery of **Cledice Decker** of Pasadena, Calif., to have her thyroid removed (due to thyroid cancer) was postponed because her blood pressure was higher than an acceptable level. The date for the surgery still has not been set.

Dave Havir reports that the cataract surgery on his right eye on Tuesday was successful. He is considering the possibility of scheduling cataract surgery on his left eye on Dec. 20. Mr. Havir appreciates the doctor recommendation given to him by **Doyle Welborn**.

New prayer requests

Gene Stockdale of Knoxville, Tenn., went to a hospital this week due to a fever and pain in the back of his neck. The doctors were able to rule out a stroke.

Ken Swiger of Knoxville, Tenn., is dealing with pain from herniated disks in his lower back and high blood pressure.

Ardith Weiss of a local Church of God congregation had cataract surgery.

Allen Johnson of Fargo, N.D., has been diagnosed with bleeding in his brain that was reportedly pooling and creating pressure on the brain.

James English of Atlanta, Ga., died on Dec. 3. Please remember his wife, **Burnetta**, and the rest of the family in your prayers.

John Orgel of Clearwater, Fla., died on Dec. 6. Please remember the family in your prayers.

Lowell Vice of Baton Rouge, La., died on Dec. 7. Please remember his wife, **Donna**, and the rest of the family in your prayers.

Ken Westby of Normandy Park, Wash., died on Dec. 8. Please remember his wife, **JoAn**, and the rest of the family in your prayers.

Scriptures to consider

Matthew 22:32—"I am the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob"? God is not the God of the dead, but of the living."

John 5:22-23—"For the Father judges no one, but has committed all judgment to the Son, that all should honor the Son just as they honor the Father. He who does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent Him."

1 Corinthians 15:24-28—"Then comes the end, when He delivers the kingdom to God the Father, when He puts an end to all rule and all authority and power. For He must reign till He has put all enemies under His feet. The last enemy that will be destroyed is death. For 'He has put all things under His feet.' But when He says 'all things are put under Him,' it is evident that He who put all things under Him is excepted. Now when all things are made subject to Him, then the Son Himself will also be subject to Him who put all things under Him, that God may be all in all."

"Did God Micromanage David?"

This article is from the "Among Friends" section of the Church of God Big Sandy's website, churchofgodbigandy.com. It was posted for the weekend of Dec. 10, 2016.

By Dave Havir

BIG SANDY, Texas—Bible students like to discuss God's involvement in the selection and behavior of civil leaders. In three separate articles (last week, this week and next week), we are discussing three Old Testament leaders who were chosen by God.

The three examples demonstrate that, even when God does choose a person to lead nations, He generally does not micromanage the actions of that leader.

Regretted choosing Saul

Last week, we discussed how God had informed Samuel of the selection of Saul to be king (1 Samuel 9:15-16).

We read about God regretting the selection of Saul (1 Samuel 5:11). We also read about Samuel's evaluation about Saul and the reason for Saul's failing (verse 17).

1 Samuel 15:17—"So Samuel said, 'When you were little in your own eyes, were you not head of the tribes of Israel? And did not the LORD anoint you king over Israel?'"

God chose David

Bible students remember the story about Samuel interviewing the sons of Jesse to find the next king.

Samuel looked at seven of Jesse's sons before the youngest son was invited to come inside from the field (1 Samuel 16 10-12).

Did not force obedience

When Bible students look at the behavior of David, they can recognize that God did not micromanage David's behavior to be obedient.

The biblical record shows some examples of God being displeased with some of David's choices.

Adultery and murder

The sins of David that are probably his most recognizable sins to Bible students are his adultery and the follow-up murder.

The act of adultery was bad enough.

2 Samuel 11:2-4—"Then it happened one evening that David arose from his bed and walked on the roof of the king's house. And from the roof he saw a woman bathing, and the woman was very beautiful to behold. So David sent and inquired about the woman. And someone said, 'Is this not Bathsheba, the daughter of Eliam, the wife of Uriah the Hittite?' Then David sent messengers, and took her; and she came to him, and he lay with her, for she was cleansed from her impurity; and she returned to her house."

But David's action to cover up the initial sin made the situation worse.

2 Samuel 11:12-13—"Then David said to Uriah, 'Wait here today also, and tomorrow I will let you depart.' So Uriah remained in Jerusalem that day and the next. Now when David called him, he ate and drank before him; and he made him drunk. And at evening he went out to lie on his bed with the servants of his lord, but he did not go down to his house."

2 Samuel 11:14-15—"In the morning it happened that David wrote a letter to Joab and sent it by the hand of Uriah. And he wrote in the letter, saying, 'Set Uriah in the forefront of the hottest battle, and retreat from him, that he may be struck down and die.'"

Forgiveness and consequence

It is interesting to note in the Bible that, when God forgives, He often removes both the spiritual consequence and the physical consequences of a person's sins.

In this particular situation, God forgave a repentant David (2 Samuel 12:13), but He still allowed David to face a major physical and emotional consequence (verse 14).