

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Church of God Big Sandy

ChurchofGodBigSandy.com

April 29, 2017 • 2:00 p.m. • Sunset 7:58

Service next Sabbath: 2:00 p.m.

Order of service

Song leader	Neil Mclver
Pianist	Dixon Cartwright
First sermon	Dave Havir
Teen class—Library	Neil Mclver
Kids class—Classroom #2	Mindy Forrestier
Second sermon	Dave Havir

Quick takes

1. Guest speakers next week—The congregation is pleased to announce two guest speakers on May 6—Eldon Raines and Ben Mauldin. (These two gentlemen have spoken at our congregation on two other occasions.)
2. Potluck meal next week—There is a potluck meal scheduled immediately after the church service next week.
3. Big Sandy school banquet on May 18—There is a Big Sandy school banquet scheduled in the building on Thursday, May 18.
4. Hawkins school banquet on May 25—There is a Hawkins school banquet scheduled in the building on Thursday, May 25.
5. Update about western Feast site—Dennis and Karen Benson have made preliminary contact with the facility that we used last year in Prescott, Ariz. Dave Havir is in negotiations with the management.
6. Edifying the Body—This week's article is "Peter Reached Back" by Lenny Cacchio.
7. Among Friends—This week's article is "Why Does Our Father Have Expectations?" by Dave Havir.
8. Eye on the World—This week's "Eye on the World" is 16 pages.

Note of appreciation

Dave Havar rarely shares the various notes of appreciation that come to the Church of God Big Sandy. Here are excerpts from a woman about his trip to a congregation in West Virginia last weekend. (Like many of the places Mr. Havar visits, this congregation owns its church building.)

Notes like this are possible because our congregation empowers Mr. Havar to visit the scattered brethren.

She wrote: "I'll begin by praising God for you and the time spent with us yesterday [April 22]. Your words and spirit 'refreshed' and uplifted us to continue on. I thank you on behalf of the congregation. We value and need your enthusiasm. Meeting you helps us not to feel like Elijah, who thought he was the only one left who obeyed God. So glad that God had our paths to cross. Please come back someday. If not, I'll see you and Pam in God's Kingdom."

Prayer updates

In last week's bulletin, we requested prayers that **Vi Lehman** would continue to have improved strength. As it turned out, she felt too tired to attend the church service last week. (She was so happy to be able to attend the various functions of the spring feast days.) She reported that she has a different amount of energy each day. Yesterday, she reported that she felt good and was hoping that would continue today so that she could attend the church service.

Boyd Payne was happy to hear that the test results (from Wednesday, April 19) revealed that his problem was not liver problems (as had been suspected). Rather, the diagnosis was gallstones. Hence, the treatment is for him to have his gallbladder removed at Longview Regional Hospital on Thursday.

Joy Hughes was recently transferred to a rehab facility. **Paula** reports that her mother is still weak, but determined to get stronger.

Cassandra Jenkins, who had a doctor remove a portion of the big toe on her left foot, went home last Saturday. She appreciates your prayers.

On Thursday, **Laura Moran** had a CAT scan to determine if she has a hernia, as suspected. The results revealed that she has a small kidney stone.

Yesterday, **Vonda Ouellette** and **Jerry Thompson** headed to her sister's home in College Station. She reports that her visit with her cardiologist on Wednesday went well. Jerry reports that he is anticipating his upcoming eye appointments on appointments on May 15 and May 30.

Ron and **Gracie Feaker** report that they had a good week.

Sonny Rosenberger regularly mentions how much he appreciates the continuing prayers for him.

Paula Monsalvo of Mobile, Ala., is recovering at home from knee-replacement surgery. Home health care has agreed to follow up with diabetes treatment and wound care.

Mike Roth of Rio Rico, Ariz., is home after surgery to remove a cancerous tumor.

Allie Dart of Whitehouse is recovering from her colon-cancer surgery in Dallas on Friday, April 21. (Although there are many Internet accounts with purported information about Allie's recovery, **Dave Havir** is honoring her comments to him about her preference for limited updates.) Here are excerpts from the CEM Facebook page on Saturday, April 22: "The surgery was extensive, with intense moments, but according to her chief surgeon Allie's vitals were strong and all of her surgeons are optimistic." The Facebook page reported on Thursday that she was moved out of ICU. She appreciates your prayers.

New prayer requests

Carol Bald requests prayers for her sister-in-law, **Jennifer Faulkner**, who continues to have serious health challenges.

Bea Gusner went to her cardiologist this week to determine the reason why she has not had the energy she recently displayed. He confirmed her low heart rate. On Monday, she is scheduled to have a pacemaker inserted.

Wynn Skelton of White Oak had an episode on Friday, April 21, that caused people to wonder if he had experienced a small stroke. However, it was quickly diagnosed as transient global amnesia. On Monday, he went to a doctor who placed him back on blood-pressure medication. Also, he is continuing his attention to the healthy choices that he and **Kim** have made for many years. They appreciate your prayers.

On Monday, **Shannon Punket** of Hawkins (granddaughter of **Ron** and **Gracie Feaker**) had surgery at the UT Hospital (north of Tyler) to deal with breast cancer. She went home on Thursday.

Tracy McDuffie of Birmingham, Ala., went to a hospital due to internal bleeding.

Vickie Dundee of Knoxville, Tenn., who had heart issues in the past, reports that she is experiencing symptoms again.

Lonnie Hendrix of Lostant, Ill., is recovering after a hospital stay for serious health problems.

David Sito of Elyria, Ohio, has been dealing with bronchitis.

Andre Salazar of Oshkosh, Wis., has been experiencing seizures.

Troy Cowan of the local community (son of **Jim Cowan**) died on April 16. Please remember the family in your prayers.

Jane Taylor of Tulsa, Okla., died Thursday after a long illness. Please remember her husband, **Tom**, and the rest of the family in your prayers.

“Why Does Our Father Have Expectations?”

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 April 29, 2017.

By Dave Havir

BIG SANDY, Texas—Last week, we discussed the concept of “Seeing Our Father’s Expectations.” This week, we will discuss the question—why does our Heavenly Father have expectations of us?

Last week, we acknowledged the following facts.

- We are saved by God’s grace.

- Since we are saved by God’s grace, He has expectations of us.

The Bible is filled with characteristics that the Heavenly Father wants His disciples to exhibit. Last week’s article mentioned only 33 sections of scriptures.

Abundant living

Someone could ask: If a disciple is saved by grace, why does the Bible list so many of the Heavenly Father’s expectations?

My answer: The loving Father wants His children to have an abundant life.

Old Testament verses

Notice a few Old Testament verses that show God’s desire for people to receive His blessings.

Deuteronomy 5:29—“Oh, that they had such a heart in them that they would fear Me and always keep all My commandments, that it might be well with them and with their children forever!”

Deuteronomy 6:24—“And the LORD commanded us to observe all these statutes, to fear the LORD our God, for our good always, that He might preserve us alive, as it is this day.”

Deuteronomy 30:19—“I call heaven and earth as witnesses today against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing; therefore choose life, that both you and your descendants may live.”

Ezekiel 33:11—“Say to them: ‘As I live,’ says the Lord GOD, ‘I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked

turn from his way and live. Turn, turn from your evil ways! For why should you die, O house of Israel?’”

New Testament verses

Notice a few New Testament verses that show God’s desire for people to receive His blessings.

Matthew 5:3-12—“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted. Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be filled. Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy. Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God. Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake. Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

John 10:10—“The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.”

James 1:25—“But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues in it, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does.”

1 John 3:1-2—“Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God! Therefore the world does not know us, because it did not know Him. Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is.”