

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Church of God Big Sandy

ChurchofGodBigSandy.com

July 27, 2024 • 1:00 p.m. • Sunset 8:20

Bible studies

Interactive study—1:00 p.m. Daniel Hammons

Presentation study—2:00 Ben Mauldin III
(also transmitted live)

Order of service—3:00 p.m.

Song leader Reg Killingley

Pianist Dixon Cartwright

Scripture reading Acts 7:17–29

Sermon Ben Mauldin III

Quick takes

1. Pastor's travel—Today, Dave Havir is visiting a congregation in western Tennessee (giving an interactive Bible study and a sermon). This year the congregation is having a variety show. (Mr. Havir heard a rumor from a reliable source that the congregation has included him in a skit—which he is willing to do.)
2. Welcome to traveling speaker—The congregation welcomes Ben Mauldin III and thanks him for giving two presentations today.
3. Every Wednesday—Bible study at 7:00 p.m.
4. Sunday, July 28—Dominoes in the building at 11:00 a.m.
5. Sunday, Aug. 4—Summer senior luncheon at United Church of God at noon. (Mandi Mischnick requested an RSVP by July 21. The RSVP information is on the bulletin board.)
6. Edifying the Body—This week's article is "Assassination Attempt Was Inevitable" by Dennis Prager.
7. Among Friends—This week's article is "Book of Revelation—Part 4" by Dave Havir.
8. Eye on the World—This week's edition has the transcript of Benjamin Netanyahu's speech to Congress, 90 headlines and six articles.

9. Please remember to pray for the following people who are not able to regularly attend our church service.

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| ■ Mickey Ashcraft | ■ Ronnie Shirley |
| ■ Judy Biggs | ■ Elaine Townsend |
| ■ Angela Dunnam | ■ Mickey Voyce |
| ■ Timberly Dunnam | ■ Donna Weese |
| ■ Ruth Roe | |

Prayer updates

In last week's bulletin, we mentioned **Siler Burgin** (grandson of **Sharon Burgin**) busted his chin open on July 3 and then returned to Cooks Children's Hospital in Fort Worth with a swollen face and neck on July 19. Mrs. Burgin reported: "Siler had surgery on Sunday morning. After the surgery, they took several wound cultures to see if it would grow bacteria. It did. It grew *pantoea septica* (a very rare bacterium that is mainly found in plant life or contracted by hospital stays). We think he may have contracted it on July 3, the day of his cut. Thank you for your continued prayers."

Melodee Eishen reported: "I did not receive the best news from the oncologist. He strongly recommended chemotherapy. I want to thank everyone for prayers and support. (Please keep it up.) I know God answers prayers."

Gary Wilson returned to his home in Lindale after receiving the hyperbaric therapy in Metairie, La.

On Tuesday, **Vonda Ouellette** returned home to Houston. She thanks those who stopped by the rehab facility in Tyler to visit her.

Dave McLearn reports: "On Tuesday, the doctor will be putting a lidocaine shot next to a nerve in my back. This is a test to see if that is my back problem. In two weeks, he will do it again. If my pain is gone for a few hours both times, then, two weeks after the second shot, he will burn that nerve. This may get me up to two years pain-free."

Leslie Harroff went to the hospital at 5:30 a.m. last Tuesday for her surgery and returned home the same day. Following is an update: "They were able to repair everything. I am recovering at home. They mentioned that there may be a slow recovery due to the softness of bones and the anchor holding. There will be a follow-up with a bone-density test. Thank you for your prayers."

Please remember **Carol O'Brien**, who is dealing with a knee problem. At the printing deadline of this bulletin, we had not heard about the results of an MRI.

New prayer requests

Brandon Jitjaeng (grandson of **Neil** and **Martha McIver**) is scheduled for orthoscopic surgery on Aug. 7. This will keep him from participating in varsity football this Fall.

“The Love Story”

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 July 20, 2024.

By Judy Biggs

BIG SANDY, Texas—When I am tired and finally able to sit down for a while, I like a good story. My Heavenly Father can tell the best true stories you have ever heard.

Like any story (in my opinion) it must start with “once upon a time” and end with “and they lived happily ever after.” You might say that I am a little bit old-fashioned.

First, let me tell you a bit about my Heavenly Father, He and His Son (a good story always has a prince) love to work and create beautiful things and beings. He is called thus a Creator and King because He is a just Ruler.

Once upon a time, He tells me, He created some of the most beautiful beings you have ever seen. Most of them He called messengers, or angels.

To three of them He gave special jobs.

To one He gave a planet and some angels to do a job. I kid you not: This angel and his helpers turned on the King and the Prince with a vengeance. I gasped in horror. Talk about betrayal! The plot thickens!

Now we have a King, a Prince and a villain! You guessed it. There is a great war. And, then, a cold war ready to erupt at any time.

Now, I am at the edge of my chair as suspense is added to the story. I know the end by heart as I have heard the story many times in my 83 years. Maybe I like it because it is about me, and you, of course.

“So” says the King, “I will turn the tables on the one called the devil and Satan. Me and My Son will create man and woman and put them in the middle of Satan’s territory!” Why would the King do that? I ask. Doesn’t it remind you a little bit about poor Cinderella? Here she is left as a child in the home of a cruel stepmother and two

equally cruel and greedy sisters.

Satan and his hinged angels have made this man and woman and their descendants’ lives a living hell! Actually, more like a Catholic purgatory.

Where is our lovely maiden, and will the Prince rescue her? “Who will rescue me?”

King David says it all in the Psalms. My Heavenly Father assures me that He will allow Satan to go only so far and no further. So, the story goes, the King is looking for the right bride for His Son. Again the plot thickens!

He will not allow His Son to marry a traitor, or one looking for money and power. She must love the King and the Prince with all her heart and soul, and want His way no matter what.

Many have turned their back on the King. Many more have been swept in the tide of sin. Our maiden—even though she can hardly catch her breath sometimes as she fights against the mire of sin, and the results of a sinful world—is loyal to the good King.

So now we have a maiden somewhere, a villain and a good plot. Will Prince Charming find her? Will He marry her and take her to His palace to live happily ever after, working and creating beautiful things?

The answers are found in Revelation 14: 1-5. In Revelation 15:1-4 our rescued maiden sings praises to the King and the Prince. She is assured that they have won this terrible war. He will marry our forlorn little maiden. And guess what:

They will live happily ever after in this beautiful palace (Revelation 12). He will wipe away the tears and promise to love her forever. What a beautiful story even if it is so sad in parts.

P.S.: Do you think it will be a best-seller?

Thought for the week

“Abstain from every form of evil.”—*The Apostle Paul*

“Book of Revelation—Part 4”

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 July 27, 2024.

By Dave Havir

BIG SANDY, Texas—At our Bible study on Wednesday night, I continued with a nine-part series about the book of Revelation. Part 4 was about the “Dragon, Serpent, Devil and Satan.”

Four names for him

■ Revelation 12:9—The being called the dragon, serpent of old, devil and Satan (who deceives the whole world) was cast to the earth.

■ Revelation 20:2—The being called the dragon, serpent of old, devil and Satan was bound for 1,000 years.

Dragon

■ Revelation 12:3—The tail of a great fiery red dragon drew a third of the angels to the earth.

■ Revelation 12:4—The dragon stood before the woman who was ready to give birth—to devour the Child as soon as It was born.

■ Revelation 12:7-8—Michael and his angels fought with the dragon.

■ Revelation 12:9—The dragon (who deceives the whole world) was cast to the earth.

■ Revelation 12:13—When the dragon was cast to the earth, he persecuted the woman who gave birth to the male Child.

■ Revelation 12:16—When the dragon sent a flood after the woman, the earth swallowed the flood.

■ Revelation 12:17—The dragon was enraged with the woman, and he went to make war with her offspring (who keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus Christ).

■ Revelation 13:2—The dragon gave the beast his power, his throne and great authority.

■ Revelation 13:4—They worshipped the dragon who gave authority to the beast.

■ Revelation 16:13—Three unclean spirits came out of the mouth of the dragon.

■ Revelation 20:2—The dragon was bound

for 1,000 years.

Serpent of old

■ Revelation 12:9—The serpent of old (who deceives the whole world) was cast to the earth.

■ Revelation 12:14—The woman was nourished away from the presence of the serpent.

■ Revelation 12:15—The serpent sent a flood after the woman.

■ Revelation 20:2—The serpent was bound for 1,000 years.

Devil

■ Revelation 2:10—The devil was about to throw some of them into prison for them to be tested with tribulation.

■ Revelation 12:9—The devil (who deceives the whole world) was cast to the earth.

■ Revelation 12:12—Woe to the inhabitants of the earth because the devil has great wrath, because he knows that he has a short time.

■ Revelation 20:2—The devil was bound for 1,000 years.

Satan

■ Revelation 2:9—Recognize the synagogue of Satan.

■ Revelation 2:13—Many Bible students believe that the Son of God was referring to the altar to the god Zeus in Pergo-mas when He referred to “Satan’s seat” and “where Satan dwells.”

■ Revelation 2:24—The Son of God referred to the “depths of Satan.”

■ Revelation 3:9—The Son of God said that He would make those of the synagogue of Satan to worship before the feet of His people.

■ Revelation 12:9—Satan (who deceives the whole world) was cast to the earth.

■ Revelation 20:2—Satan was bound for 1,000 years.

■ Revelation 20:7—Satan will be released from prison when the 1,000 years have expired.