

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Church of God Big Sandy

ChurchofGodBigSandy.com

May 2, 2026 • 1:00 p.m. • Sunset 8:04

Bible studies

Interactive study—1:00 p.m. Jim Bald
Presentation study—2:00 Wynn Skelton
(also transmitted live)

Order of service—3:00 p.m.

Song leader Reg Killingley
Pianist Dixon Cartwright
Scripture reading Deuteronomy 30:15–20
Sermon Wynn Skelton

Quick takes

1. Pastor's travel—Today, Dave Havir is scheduled to give two presentations in Fort Worth.
2. Dominoes tomorrow—Interested participants should contact Sue Jones.
3. Wednesday-night Bible study—May 6 at 7:00.
4. National Day of Prayer on May 7—The City of Big Sandy will be hosting a prayer session on the National Day of Prayer on May 7 at noon at the Heritage Center in downtown Big Sandy. It will be a group of citizens to gather and listen to people in the community to offer prayers to the Almighty. Prayers often include the following.
 - For first-responders
 - For law-enforcement officials
 - For our city
 - For our state
 - For our country
 - For our world
5. School function in our building on May 7—We are pleased that the Big Sandy school system will be having its Athletic Banquet in our building on Thursday, May 7. (If the event follows the pattern as previous years, organizers may be in our building earlier in the week for advance setup.)

6. Annual board-nomination process begins on May 9—The annual election for the board of the Church of God Big Sandy begins next Saturday. (The nomination portion of the process occurs in May, and the election occurs in June.)
7. Edifying the Body—This week's article is "Known Attempts on Trump's Life Since 2016" by Elaine Mallon.
8. Among Friends—This week's article is "1 Thessalonians 3:1-13" by Dave Havir.
9. Eye on the World—The project was not available at the bulletin deadline.

Prayer updates

In last week's bulletin, we mentioned that **Timberly Dunnam** was scheduled for a biopsy on her throat on April 30. Here is a report from **Angela** following the biopsy: "Thank you for all the prayers. After the biopsy, she is hoarse and in some pain in her throat. The doctor said that would be normal afterwards. Now, we wait to hear from the doctor about the results. (Also, thank you for taking the time and effort to get her favorite tea! She is very thankful for the potatoes as well, because they are soft and taste good.) Thank you so much for everything!"

In last week's bulletin, we mentioned shoulder surgery that **Tiffany Dunnam** had. Here is an update from husband **Jake**: "Tiffany's surgery was successful in releasing the frozen shoulder. She is doing physical therapy three times a week to regain movement and strength after not being able to use her arm for six months. She is having less pain each day, except for therapy days, which are quite painful. We thank you all for your prayers.

In last week's bulletin, we mentioned that, when **Elaine Townsend** was being treated for a fall, the doctor diagnosed a "severe coronary-artery calcification." On Tuesday, her sister, **Barbara Lingle**, reported: "She had a couple of painful days, but she is doing much better. She is in a wheelchair but started physical therapy yesterday. Hopefully, this will get her back to walking."

New prayer requests

On Friday, **Linda Avey** requested prayers for **Kyle Alexander** (her 27-year-old grandson who lives in Bullard), who cut a finger that immediately needed five stitches and will be evaluated on Monday for possible surgery. (While making the prayer request for her grandson, Mrs. Avey also mentioned health challenges of getting older. While she has a lifetime of active accomplishments, she described dealing with her physical limitations. She described that she was a little grumpy on Wednesday, and that her daughter **Sheila** received the brunt of her grumpiness. Her present dialysis schedule involves Saturday, so she has been missing church—in attendance and emotionally. When her dialysis schedule changes shortly, she is excited about seeing everyone again on a regular basis.)

On Tuesday, **Linda Stiver** of Sioux Falls, S.D., reported that her husband, **Randy**, had a major stroke.

On Tuesday, **Gayle Hoefker** (who lives in Alabama but is visiting family in Texas) gave a prayer request for her father, **Harry Travis**. “Over the past six weeks or so, he has been dealing with several health issues—among them needing a heart stent, severe anemia, a small tumor in the intestinal tract near the pancreas duct and pancreatitis. He has had the heart stent installed and it is working fine. He had the tumor removed and a pancreas ductal stent put in to help prevent swelling because of removal of the small tumor. He received 12 units of blood over several days to address the anemia. He is trying to eat a high iron diet to help his hemoglobin count and a low fat diet because of the pancreatitis. We would appreciate prayers that his hemoglobin count would continue to rise and stay in a normal range and that his pancreas would continue to heal from its inflammation. He has a couple of other issues that need to be examined more fully once he gains his strength back after losing about 25 pounds during this health crisis. Prayers for guidance, wisdom and improving strength are appreciated.”

On Sunday, **Dennis Benson** of Prescott Valley, Ariz., went into surgery to remove a bowel obstruction. The blockage was apparently in an area where he has scar tissue from a previous appendectomy. The surgery went well. On Thursday night, his wife, **Karen**, reported: “Dennis is home, having a nap. He will need to be very careful of the incision for the next couple of weeks.”

On April 26, **Vivian Sprain** (mother of **Martha McIver** who lived in Colorado, Springs, Colo., for the past four years) died. Please remember her family in your prayers.

Scriptures to consider

Psalms 35:20—“For they do not speak peace, but they devise deceitful matters against the quiet ones in the land.”

Proverbs 16:7—“When a man’s ways please the LORD, He makes even his enemies to be at peace with him.”

Matthew 5:9—“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.”

Romans 12:18—“If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men.”

Philippians 4:7—“And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.”

Colossians 3:15—“And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body; and be thankful.”

Hebrews 12:14—“Pursue peace with all people, and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord.”

James 3:17-18—“But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy. Now the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.”

“1 Thessalonians 3:1–13”

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 May 2, 2026.

By Dave Havir

BIG SANDY, Texas—At our Bible study on Wednesday night, I continued a series about 1 and 2 Thessalonians. The title of the presentation was “1 Thessalonians 3:1-13. Before we talk about 1 Thessalonians 3, let’s take a brief glimpse at a few verses in chapter 2.

Suffered like brethren in Judea

■ 1 Thessalonians 2:14-16—“You also suffered the same things from your own countrymen, just as they did from the Judeans—who killed both the Lord Jesus and their own prophets, and have persecuted us.”

Wanted to visit them again

■ 1 Thessalonians 2:17—Paul reminded the brethren that he and others wanted to see them again.

■ 1 Thessalonians 2:18—Paul reminded the brethren that Satan hindered their return to see them.

■ 1 Thessalonians 2:19—Paul reminded the brethren about their hope, joy and desire for the brethren—that they would be “in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ at His coming.”

■ 1 Thessalonians 2:20—This section ended with Paul writing: “You are our glory and joy.”

Paul in Athens, Timothy in Macedonia

■ 1 Thessalonians 3:1—While Paul was in Athens, Timothy was in Macedonia.

■ Acts 17:5—A mob of evil men in Thessalonica attacked the house of Jason, looking for Paul.

■ Acts 17:10—The brethren sent Paul and Silas to Berea.

■ Acts 17:13-15—When the evil men from Thessalonica went to Berea to stir up more trouble, the brethren sent Paul away, and he ended up in Athens.

■ Acts 17:16—Paul was not happy to see the people in Athens given over to idols.

■ Acts 17:23-31—Paul gave a fantastic oral presentation in Athens.

Why was Timothy sent to Thessalonica?

■ 1 Thessalonians 3:2-3—Paul mentioned the reasons to send Timothy to Thessalonica: “To establish you and encourage you concerning the faith.”

Notice Paul’s description of Timothy’s serving in Philippi (a nearby city in Macedonia).

■ Philippians 2:19—Paul mentioned his plan to send Timothy to Philippi “that I also may be encouraged when I know your state.”

■ Philippians 2:20-22—Then Paul made these positive statements about Timothy: “For I have no one like-minded, who will sincerely care for your state. For all seek their own (not the things which are of Christ Jesus). But you know his proven character, that as a son with his father he served with me in the gospel.”

The rest of 1 Thessalonians 3 confirms Paul’s reason for sending Timothy to places in Macedonia (like Philippi and Thessalonica).

■ 1 Thessalonians 3:2—Paul wanted Timothy to establish them and to encourage them concerning their faith.

■ 1 Thessalonians 3:3—Paul wanted Timothy to remind them not to be shaken by their afflictions.

■ 1 Thessalonians 3:4—Paul reminded them that believers suffer tribulations.

■ 1 Thessalonians 3:5—Paul wanted Timothy to confirm that the tempter did not derail them.

■ 1 Thessalonians 3:6-8—Timothy had already given a good report.

■ 1 Thessalonians 3:9-10—Paul was praying night and day to see their faces and their faith.

■ 1 Thessalonians 3:11—Paul wrote: “Now may our God and Father Himself, and our Lord Jesus Christ, direct our way to you.”

■ 1 Thessalonians 3:12—Paul wrote: “May the Lord make you increase and abound in love to one another and to all—just as we do to you.”

■ 1 Thessalonians 3:13—Paul wrote to them about focusing upon God (the Father) and the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.