

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Church of God Big Sandy

ChurchofGodBigSandy.com

Sept. 30, 2017 • 2:00 p.m. • Sunset 7:07

Welcome to our guests

Members of the Church of God Big Sandy welcome all guests as we worship on the Day of Atonement. Here is the schedule today.

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| ■ 2:00 p.m. | Bible study—Neil McIver
Teen class—Martha McIver
Kids' class—Dave Havir |
| ■ 3:00 | Church service |

Order of service

Song leader	Reg Killingley
Pianist	Dixon Cartwright
Offertory	Piano solo
Scripture reading	Hebrews 9:1-8 by Kemmer Pfund
Sermon	Dave Havir

Quick takes

1. Thank you—The congregation thanks Garland and Leslie Harroff for upgrading the air-conditioning thermostats in the building. The new thermostats can now be controlled remotely via the Internet from computers, tablets and smart phones by individuals designated to make adjustments.
2. Feast church service on the website—This is to remind people that a daily church service will be transmitted on our website from Thursday, Oct. 5, through Thursday, Oct. 12. The service will originate from our Feast site in Destin, Fla., and will begin at 10:30 a.m. (central time) for the first seven days. On the eighth day, the service will begin at 11:00 a.m. (central time).
3. Opening-night fellowship on Oct. 4—There is an opening-night meeting for fellowship on Wednesday, Oct. 4, from 6:00 to 8:00. While there will be no church service that evening, everyone is invited to the building for fellowship. (The dress standard is nice casual.)
4. Edifying the Body—The article titled “Where God Has Placed His Name” by Dave Havir will be posted on the website for three consecutive weekends (Sept. 30, Oct. 7 and Oct. 14, 2017).

5. Among Friends—The article “Course of Abijah” by Dave Havir will be posted on the website for three weekends (Sept. 30, Oct. 7 and Oct. 14, 2017).
6. Eye on the World—This week’s “Eye on the World” is 20 pages. (There will be a additional “Eye on the World” prepared for the weekends of Oct. 7 and Oct. 14, 2017.)

Prayer Updates

Bea Gusner (who went to Mayo Clinic in Minnesota on Monday for tests and evaluation) heard the recommendation that she have surgery for her leaking heart valves. You might recall that she previously had surgery there to repair one leaking valve in August, and this evaluation was to determine what to do about the other valve. Even though her lab numbers were better, the doctor recommended surgery for both valves—replacing both valves instead of repairing both valves. The surgery is expected to be five to seven hours long, and the recovery (a “stormy recovery”) is expected to be a full week. Since Bea wanted to wait until after the winter and after a symphony concert in April, it appears that the surgery will occur in late spring. She returned home on Wednesday evening. She is looking forward to going to Prescott Valley for most of the Feast of Tabernacles.

On Monday, **Joyce Coleman** had a follow-up visit with her cardiologist. The echocardiogram revealed that her “aortic valve has wear, but is working fine.” Her next appointment is scheduled for a year from now.

On Tuesday, **Larry Foster** (son of **Betty Foster**) went for an MRI. (In the Sept. 16 bulletin, we erroneously reported that he had an MRI that week. The truth was that the doctor informed him at that time that he needed an MRI.)

Emma Lou Bacher of Garland, who recently fell and broke her left arm (just above the wrist), was hoping to go the Feast of Tabernacles in California. However, it appears that she may not be able to travel that far.

You might remember that **Barbara Marlowe** (age 86) of Shreveport, La., fell at the church service during the Feast of Trumpets. She was taken to Good Shepherd Hospital in Longview, where she had successful surgery to repair a broken hip on Friday afternoon. However, her heart and kidneys could not handle the stress of the surgery and she died Sunday morning. Please remember the family in your prayers.

New prayer requests

Marilyn Boston has been having challenges with her eyesight and with the air-conditioning in her home.

Ruth Roe has been having some challenges with her throat.

Viorica Graham went to a Tyler hospital at 3:00 a.m. on Tuesday due to extreme pain. (She originally went to the East Texas Medical Center in Tyler, but they were full and sent her to the Mother Frances Hospital.) She was diagnosed with a kidney stone. It passed through her system the same day. Doctors kept her in the hospital for observation.

“Fasting on Day of Atonement”

This article is from the “Among Friends” section of the Church of God Big Sandy’s website, churchofgodbig sandy.com. It was posted for the weekend of Oct. 8, 2016.

By Dave Havir

BIG SANDY, Texas—As we enter the autumn of the year in the northern hemisphere, saints around the world will be celebrating the meaning of the biblical Day of Atonement. The Day of Atonement is among the annual feast days listed in Leviticus 23.

While saints appreciate the concise listing of these days in Leviticus 23, they are quick to mention to observers that they are not under the sacrificial system of the Old Testament. Therefore, saints do not participate in the various offerings and sacrifices outlined for that particular chapter.

It is a fair question to ask: “Do New Testament saints choose to fast (afflict their soul) from evening to evening on the Day of Atonement?”

My response: Yes, most of the people in my network of religious people choose to make the Day of Atonement one of their days of fasting.

My friends certainly realize that they are not dealing with (1) a physical tabernacle or temple, (2) a physical priesthood or (3) a physical sacrifice as mentioned in Leviticus 16:1-34. But they recognize how the New Testament supports the importance of fasting.

Basics of fasting

At this time, I would like to answer various questions about fasting.

■ Are there many examples of fasting in the Old Testament?

My answer: Many Bible students are surprised that there are not as many examples of fasting in the Old Testament as they might have imagined.

One of the most famous examples of fasting is found during the time of Esther dealing with the shenanigans of Haman. See Esther 4:15-16.

■ Does fasting always have to be without both food and water (as done in Esther 4:15-16)?

My answer: Not necessarily. There are many ways to fast. In our modern time, a valuable fast is to replace technology (television time, computer time, smart-phone time, etc.) with more time in prayer and Bible study.

■ Does fasting always have to be for a 24-hour period (as mentioned in Leviticus 23:32)?

My answer: Not at all. The time period is generally not the key. How is the dedicated time spent? Many people occasionally dedicate fasting time for longer than 24 hours.

■ Does fasting always have to be from evening to evening (as mentioned in Leviticus 23:32)?

My answer: Not at all. Many people adjust the starting and stopping times of their fasting.

What did Christ say?

Have you ever noticed what Jesus Christ said about fasting in the New Testament?

■ Matthew 4:1-11—He fasted for 40 days when preparing to face the temptations of the devil.

■ Matthew 6:16-18—He mentioned that fasting should be a private matter with God, rather than a public display in an effort to impress other people.

■ Matthew 9:14-17—He mentioned that His disciples would not fast while He walked the earth with them.

■ Luke 18:9-14—He gave a parable showing that fasting can be a ritual that deceives people into thinking they are righteous.

Valuable lesson

One of the best lessons about fasting can be found in the Old Testament book of Isaiah. Please take the time to read the contrast.

■ Isaiah 58:3-5—qualities of an unproductive fast

■ Isaiah 58:6-7—qualities of a productive fast

Scriptures for the season

Exodus 30:10—“And Aaron shall make atonement upon its horns once a year with the blood of the sin offering of atonement; once a year he shall make atonement upon it throughout your generations. It is most holy to the LORD.”

Leviticus 16:32-34—“And the priest, who is anointed and consecrated to minister as priest in his father’s place, shall make atonement, and put on the linen clothes, the holy garments; then he shall make atonement for the Holy Sanctuary, and he shall make atonement for the tabernacle of meeting and for the altar, and he shall make atonement for the priests and for all the people of the assembly. This shall be an everlasting statute for you, to make atonement for the children of Israel, for all their sins, once a year.” And he did as the LORD commanded Moses.

Hebrews 7:23-28—Also there were many priests, because they were prevented by death from continuing. But He, because He continues forever, has an unchangeable priesthood. Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them. For such a High Priest was fitting for us, who is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and has become higher than the heavens; who does not need daily, as those high priests, to offer up sacrifices, first for His own sins and then for the people’s, for this He did once for all when He offered up Himself. For the law appoints as high priests men who have weakness, but the word of the oath, which came after the law, appoints the Son who has been perfected forever.

Hebrews 9:7—But into the second part the high priest went alone once a year, not without blood, which he offered for himself and for the people’s sins committed in ignorance.

Hebrews 9:24-28—For Christ has not entered the holy places made with hands, which are copies of the true, but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us; not that He should offer Himself often, as the high priest enters the Most Holy Place every year with blood of another—He then would have had to suffer often since the foundation of the world; but now, once at the end of the ages, He has appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself. And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment, so Christ was offered once to bear the sins of many. To those who eagerly wait for Him He will appear a second time, apart from sin, for salvation.

James 4:7-8—Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded.

1 Peter 5:6-10—Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time, casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you. Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. Resist him, steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same sufferings are experienced by your brotherhood in the world. But may the God of all grace, who called us to His eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after you have suffered a while, perfect, establish, strengthen, and settle you.