

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Church of God Big Sandy

ChurchofGodBigSandy.com

Nov. 11, 2017 • 2:00 p.m. • Sunset 5:22

Bible studies and classes

Interactive study (1:00) Dave Havir
Bible study (2:00) Neil Mclver
Teen class Martha Mclver
Kids' class Dave Havir

Order of service

Song leader Neil Mclver
Pianist Dixon Cartwright
Scripture reading Revelation 2:8-17 by Stan West
Sermon Dave Havir

Quick takes

1. Wedding tonight—Vachelle Case and Louis Harder invite you to their wedding in our building tonight at 7:00.
2. Birth announcement from Alabama—Ian and Lauren Walker (and grandparents Neal and Leigh Ann Parker) are pleased to announce the arrival of Leona Oakley Walker. She arrived on Thursday morning weighing 8 lbs. 6 ozs. and was 20 inches long. Everyone is doing well.
3. Community Thanksgiving Church service—The congregations in Big Sandy have scheduled their community Thanksgiving church service for Sunday evening (5:00) on Nov. 19. Individuals from various congregations present “a brief thought or insight” that should last for only five to seven minutes. Dave Havir has agreed to participate with a short presentation.
 - Where—First Baptist Church (on 155 north)
 - Finger foods will be provided by each church
4. Foster barn dance—The annual barn dance that has been traditionally organized by Morris and Linda Foster during the Thanksgiving season will be held on Dec. 30.

5. Edifying the Body—This week's article is "Press Largely Ignores Horror of the Persecuted Church" by Eric Metaxas.
6. Among Friends—The week's article is "Comments About Acts 22" by Dave Havir.
7. Eye on the World—This week's "Eye on the World" is 18 pages.

Prayer updates

Daniel Botha reports that he still has days where he does not have his normal energy. (He did make a point of telling **Dave Havir** that, although he appreciates the prayers, there is no need for people to worry about him.)

In last week's bulletin, we mentioned that **Laura Moran** had an EKG and the results were sent to her cardiologist. On Monday, she unexpectedly received a heart monitor that the doctor wants her to wear for 21 days. She was hoping to begin using it yesterday.

In last week's bulletin, we mentioned that **Gracie Feaker** went to Mother Frances Hospital in Tyler and was diagnosed with fluid on the lungs (presumably involving congestive heart failure). The doctors officially diagnosed her with pneumonia.

In last week's bulletin, we mentioned that **Wynn Skelton** had head trauma after falling at a deer lease in Mason. While Wynn suffered several fractures in the orbital bones in the eye, a greater challenge is to determine the cause of his fainting. Here are excerpts from his wife, **Kim**: "He has bilateral bone fractures below each eye and a right temporal bone fracture (skull fracture, side of head). He had some bleeding in the brain, which caused swelling and pain. His right eye is swollen shut, and the eyeball itself is swollen. He had hard contacts in his eye when he fell. We were able to pop out the left contact. We went to the ophthalmologist and received the good news that his right contact was not in his eye (as we feared), and that was a major relief. He appears to have no damage to the back of the eye, but it is swollen and drying out. The seventh nerve (cranial), which goes from behind the ear to the face, is damaged, which causes numbness on the right side of his face. That will heal, though. The only cause for possible concern is if the orbital-bone fracture under the eye (called a blowout fracture) has pinched the eye muscle (which would mean surgery). His appetite is returning and he is walking. The doctor predicts up to six weeks of recovery. He is scheduled to see a neurologist on Nov. 28 to find the cause of this passing-out scenario."

Sharon Edelbach of Kellogg, Minn. (mother of **Jeanine Case**), reports that the doctor said that there is a 95 percent diagnosis of no cancer involving the pancreas.

New prayer requests

On Sunday, **Al Donahue** went to Mother Frances Hospital in Tyler and was diagnosed with a urinary-tract infection. While there, Al was experiencing bladder spasms, which were causing severe pain. When the doctors checked his bladder, they believed they found a mass in his bladder and scheduled a biopsy for

Thursday. After the biopsy, the doctor said that there was no tumor and no cancer. Rather, the doctor said Al had an enlarged prostate. The family quoted the doctor as saying that a typical prostate is 25 millimeters and that Al's prostate was 165 millimeters. They quoted the doctor as saying that the prostate was "wrapped around his bladder." Surgery to remove the prostate is scheduled for Tuesday. There was some discussion about Al being discharged yesterday, but the doctor wanted to keep him in a position to give him recommended medicine. (When the doctor inserted a different catheter, the bladder spasms causing the pain stopped.)

Although some in the congregation have been aware that **Eli Benedict** has been dealing with skin cancer around his knee, we wanted to give the rest of the congregation the opportunity to be praying about the situation.

On Thursday, **Ron Feaker** fell while entering his home. It took a while for his daughter **Karen** to be able to stop the bleeding from his head and arm.

Prayers are requested for 5-month-old **Connor Beers** of Maysville, Ky., who has been diagnosed with "semilobar holoprosencephaly." His family described the condition: "His brain did not fully develop when he was in the uterus." Without God's intervention, Connor is projected to be a special-needs baby with declining health.

On Monday, **Dick Arnowitz** of Pittsburgh, Pa., went to the hospital. The primary concern at the time was a "lesion" in his throat that was obstructing his swallowing. While there, he learned that he has a small tear in his aorta.

Early this week, **Skip Martin** of Pocahontas, Ark., went to a hospital due to trouble breathing and trouble swallowing. The diagnosis was an allergic reaction. He was able to go home on Thursday.

Synopsis of board meeting

Here is a synopsis of the board meeting on Tuesday evening, Nov. 7. President Ron Avey wanted to quickly address four topics.

- Mr. Avey asked if the board wanted to draft a statement of support for Dave Haver in light of some negative and inaccurate information that had appeared on social media. While Mr. Haver appreciated the sentiment, he and the board felt that it was not necessary.
- Mr. Avey recommended that the board plan to schedule an upcoming meeting at a more convenient time for the congregation—to make it easier for members to ask questions and to give valuable input.
- Carol Bald asked if the board was interested in appropriating funds in support of Big Sandy school projects. While Mr. Haver explained some history that he has made such decisions within his outreach budget (approved by the budget committee and the board), he welcomes board involvement in such a discussion for the following reason—the board may want to be more involved in how our congregation interacts with the local community.
- Mr. Avey asked if the board wanted to accept a proposal for a combined Feast site with an individual in Canada. While board members found the idea to be interesting, they decided to continue with our four anticipated Feast sites for 2018.

“Comments About Acts 22”

This article is from the “Among Friends” section of the Church of God Big Sandy’s Web site, churchofgodbigandy.com. It was posted for the weekend of Nov. 11, 2017.

By Dave Havir

BIG SANDY, Texas—Recently, I began a series of brief articles to discuss chapters in the book of Acts. This week, we will talk about chapter 22.

May this project encourage you to review the valuable history found in the book of Acts.

Overview of Paul’s travels

As we entered into Acts 13, we began reading about Paul’s missionary journeys. According to some Bible commentaries, the trips can be categorized in the following manner.

■ First missionary journey—Acts 13:1 until Acts 14:28

■ Second missionary journey—Acts 15:36 until Acts 18:22

■ Third missionary journey—Acts 18:23 until Acts 21:16

■ Trip to Rome—Acts 21:17 until Acts 28:31

Paul’s defense

Here is a reminder of the conclusion of Acts 21—a mob seized Paul (verses 30-36), a commander accused Paul of leading an insurrection of 4,000 assassins into the wilderness (verse 38), and Paul was ready to give his defense of himself (verses 39-40).

■ He began his defense (Acts 22:1) in the Hebrew language (verse 2).

■ Verse 3 mentioned a number of facts—Paul was a Jew who was born in Tarsus, he learned at the feet of Gamaliel, and he was raised with a keen involvement of the law.

Notice a few scriptures that show Paul’s history with the law.

Acts 26:5—“They knew me from the first, if they were willing to testify, that according to the strictest sect of our religion I lived a Pharisee.”

Philippians 3:3-6—“For we are the circumcision, who worship God in the Spirit,

rejoice in Christ Jesus, and have no confidence in the flesh, though I also might have confidence in the flesh. If anyone else thinks he may have confidence in the flesh, I more so: circumcised the eighth day, of the stock of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of the Hebrews; concerning the law, a Pharisee; concerning zeal, persecuting the church; concerning the righteousness which is in the law, blameless.”

■ He told how he had previously persecuted the Way by delivering people to Jerusalem to be punished (verses 4-5).

■ He told about his Road-to-Damascus experience (verses 6-21).

■ He told about his participation in the death of Stephen (verse 20).

Roman citizenship

■ After listening to Paul, their voices said: “Away with such a fellow from the earth, for he is not fit to live” (verses 22-23).

■ The commander ordered that Paul should be examined by scourging (verse 24).

■ Paul responded: “Is it lawful for you to scourge a Roman citizen, who is innocent?” (verse 25).

■ A centurion told the commander: “Be careful what you do with this man, because he is a Roman” (verse 26).

■ The commander asked: “Are you a Roman?” (verse 27).

■ The commander mentioned how he obtained his Roman citizenship with a large sum of money, and Paul mentioned that he was born a Roman citizen (verse 28).

■ The commander and the soldiers backed away (verse 29).

■ On the next day, Paul was set before the chief priests and the council (verse 30).

Interesting fact

It is interesting to note that Paul used his Roman citizenship on three occasions—twice to escape a bad situation (Acts 16:37 and Acts 22:25-30) and once to preach the gospel (Acts 25:10-11).