

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Church of God Big Sandy

ChurchofGodBigSandy.com

Jan. 7, 2017 • 2:00 p.m. • Sunset 5:28

Service next Sabbath: 2:00 p.m.

Order of service

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

Quick takes

1. Thank you—Thanks to all who helped serve at the winter social last Saturday evening. (We appreciate the Forrestiers arranging for the bounce houses.)
2. Thank you—Thanks to all the young people who dressed up in imaginative costumes last Saturday night.
3. Potluck meal today—There is a potluck meal scheduled immediately after the church service today.
4. Joint baby shower tomorrow—There is a joint baby shower tomorrow at 1:00 p.m. (Lis and Ryan Eaton are expecting a girl in February, and Celina and Mike Jitjaeng are expecting a boy in April.) There is no need to RSVP, but, if you have any questions, please contact Martha Mclver.
5. Guest speaker on Jan. 21—George Crow is scheduled as a guest speaker on Saturday, Jan. 21.
6. Fellowship Club on Jan. 21—There is a Fellowship Club scheduled shortly after the church service on Jan. 21.
7. Private function in the building on Jan. 26—There is a private function (local Chamber of Commerce dinner) in the building on Thursday, Jan. 26.

8. Very rare to cancel church service—It is the custom of our congregation to avoid canceling our church service due to inclement weather. Even with a potential of lower attendance in the building due to weather in our area, we still hope to serve the audience on the website.
9. Main reason for canceling church service—Our main reason for canceling a church service is the loss of electricity.
10. Edifying the Body—This week's article is "Hope or Faith?" by Lenny Cacchio.
11. Among Friends—This week's article is "Rehoboam and Beyond" by Dave Havir.
12. Eye on the World—This week's "Eye on the World" is 18 pages.

Prayer updates

In the Dec. 17 bulletin, we mentioned that **Willie Choate** was considering to stop his chemotherapy plan. He reports that he did stop at this time and that he is feeling better. He appreciates your prayers.

Betty Foster continues to lose energy through the day due to the effects of a UTI. On Thursday, she went to a doctor in Jacksonville for a second opinion.

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

Please remember **Sonny Rosenberger**, who is dealing with some breathing challenges.

Laura Moran reports that she is feeling good again.

Mike Roth of Rio Rico, Ariz., reports that the PET scan last week showed that the cancer was contained in the stomach.

Cledice Decker of Pasadena, Calif., is hoping to go to a rehab center to work on her swallowing and speaking.

Cindy McLendon of a local church of God fellowship died on Thursday. Please remember her husband, **Charles**, and the rest of the family in your prayers.

New prayer requests

Since **Jerry Thompson** has been having eye difficulty, he went to an eye doctor on Monday. He was diagnosed with "diabetic retinopathy" and "macular degeneration." He is scheduled to return to the doctor this coming Friday to begin treatment. (He is anticipating to receive a shot in each eye.) He appreciates your prayers.

Jessica Killingley has been sick with an infection as she traveled in Mexico and Guatemala.

Leon Walker of a local Church of God congregation had knee-replacement surgery this week.

Robbie Tuel of Gilmer died on Jan. 2. Please remember the family in your prayers.

Scriptures to consider

Job 42:1-6—Then Job answered the LORD and said: “I know that You can do everything, and that no purpose of Yours can be withheld from You. You asked, ‘Who is this who hides counsel without knowledge?’ Therefore I have uttered what I did not understand, things too wonderful for me, which I did not know. Listen, please, and let me speak; you said, ‘I will question you, and you shall answer Me.’ I have heard of You by the hearing of the ear, but now my eye sees You. Therefore I abhor myself, and repent in dust and ashes.”

Psalms 15:1-5—LORD, who may abide in Your tabernacle? Who may dwell in Your holy hill? He who walks uprightly, and works righteousness, and speaks the truth in his heart; he who does not backbite with his tongue, nor does evil to his neighbor, nor does he take up a reproach against his friend; in whose eyes a vile person is despised, but he honors those who fear the LORD; he who swears to his own hurt and does not change; he who does not put out his money at usury, nor does he take a bribe against the innocent. He who does these things shall never be moved.

Proverbs 6:16-19—These six things the LORD hates, yes, seven are an abomination to Him: a proud look, a lying tongue, hands that shed innocent blood, a heart that devises wicked plans, feet that are swift in running to evil, a false witness who speaks lies, and one who sows discord among brethren.

Ecclesiastes 12:13-14—Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God and keep His commandments, for this is man’s all. For God will bring every work into judgment, including every secret thing, whether good or evil.

Isaiah 58:6-7—Is this not the fast that I have chosen: to loose the bonds of wickedness, to undo the heavy burdens, to let the oppressed go free, and that you break every yoke? Is it not to share your bread with the hungry, and that you bring to your house the poor who are cast out; when you see the naked, that you cover him, and not hide yourself from your own flesh?

Isaiah 61:1-2—“The Spirit of the Lord God is upon Me, because the LORD has anointed Me to preach good tidings to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound; to proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn.”

Zechariah 7:9-10—“Thus says the LORD of hosts: ‘Execute true justice, show mercy and compassion everyone to his brother. Do not oppress the widow or the fatherless, the alien or the poor. Let none of you plan evil in his heart against his brother.’ ”

Zechariah 8:16-17—“These are the things you shall do: Speak each man the truth to his neighbor; give judgment in your gates for truth, justice, and peace; let none of you think evil in your heart against your neighbor; and do not love a false oath. For all these are things that I hate,” says the LORD.

Malachi 3:17-18—“They shall be Mine,” says the LORD of hosts, “on the day that I make them My jewels, and I will spare them as a man spares his own son who serves him.” Then you shall again discern between the righteous and the wicked, between one who serves God and one who does not serve Him.

“Rehoboam and Beyond”

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 Jan. 7, 2017.

By Dave Havir

BIG SANDY, Texas—In last week’s article, we discussed the early kings of the northern tribes of Israel—19 men from Jeroboam through Hosea. At that time, we noticed how the vast majority of them walked in the unsuccessful footsteps of Jeroboam.

In this week’s article, I will look at the early kings of the southern tribe of Judah—20 people from Rehoboam to Zedekiah.

10 tribes separated

Notice some of the events leading up to the separation by the northern 10 tribes from Judah.

- Solomon died (1 Kings 11:41-43).
- Jeroboam recommended to Rehoboam that he not be as burdensome on the people as Solomon had been (1 Kings 12:3-4).
- Rehoboam consulted the elders of the community, who advised him to be the servant of the people. Rehoboam ignored their advice (1 Kings 12:6-7).
- Rehoboam consulted the younger men of the community, who advised him to increase the burdens on the people. Rehoboam agreed with their advice (1 Kings 12:8-14).
- Israel followed Jeroboam instead of Rehoboam (1 Kings 12:15-20).

Rehoboam’s reign

Notice this descriptive summary about the reign of Rehoboam.

1 Kings 14:22-24—“Now Judah did evil in the sight of the LORD, and they provoked Him to jealousy with their sins which they committed, more than all that their fathers had done. For they also built for themselves high places, sacred pillars, and wooden images on every high hill and under every green tree. And there were also perverted persons in the land. They did according to all the abominations of the nations which the LORD had cast

out before the children of Israel.”

1 Kings 14:30—“And there was war between Rehoboam and Jeroboam all their days.”

List of Judah’s kings

When a Bible student reviews a list of the early kings of Judah, he notices the contrast between poor reviews and good evaluations.

- Abijam: 1 Kings 15:3—sins of Rehoboam
- Asa: 1 Kings 15:11—likened positively to David
- Jehoshaphat: 1 Kings 15:43—likened positively to Asa
- Jehoram: 2 Kings 8:18—likened negatively to Ahab of Israel
- Ahaziah: 2 Kings 8:27—likened negatively to Ahab of Israel
- Athaliah: 2 Kings 11:1—woman who killed many male heirs
- Joash: 2 Kings 11:17—young ruler who enjoyed positive time as long as priest Jehoiada was alive
- Amaziah: 2 Kings 14:3-4—some good, some mistakes
- Azariah: 2 Kings 15:3-4—some good, some mistakes
- Jotham: 2 Kings 15:34-35—some good, some mistakes
- Ahaz: 2 Kings 16:3-4—likened negatively to kings of Israel
- Hezekiah: 2 Kings 18:3-7—likened positively to David
- Manasseh: 2 Kings 21:2-6—negative
- Amon: 2 Kings 21:20-22—likened negatively to Manasseh
- Josiah: 2 Kings 22:2—likened positively to David
- Jehoahaz: 2 Kings 23:32—negative
- Jehoiakim: 2 Kings 23:37—negative
- Jehoiachin: 2 Kings 24:9—negative
- Zedekiah: 2 Kings 24:19—negative like Jehoiakim