

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Church of God Big Sandy

ChurchofGodBigSandy.com

March 4, 2017 • 2:00 p.m. • Sunset 6:18

Service next Sabbath: 2:00 p.m.

Order of service

Song leader	Neil McIver
Pianist	Dixon Cartwright
First sermon	Dave Havir
Teen class—Library	Neil McIver
Kids class—Classroom #2	Mindy Forrestier
Second sermon	Dave Havir

Quick takes

1. Welcome to our guests—We are glad you are with us today, since we anticipate our attendance to be a bit lower today due to illness and a women's conference in East Texas this weekend.
2. Potluck meal today—There is a potluck meal scheduled immediately after the church service today.
3. Community function tonight—There is a community function (variety show as a fund-raiser for the Big Sandy Museum Association) in the building tonight at 7:00. Ellis Stewart (the coordinator of the community event) has given Dave Havir tickets to distribute to anyone in the congregation who would like to attend.
4. Daylight-saving time begins on March 12—This is a reminder that daylight-saving time begins on Sunday, March 12.
5. Senior-citizen meal on March 25—There is a senior-citizen meal scheduled shortly after the church service on March 25.
6. Edifying the Body—This week's article is "The Power of One" by Lisa Hammond.
7. Among Friends—This week's article is "You Are What You Choose" by Dave Havir.
8. Eye on the World—This week's "Eye on the World" is 30 pages.

Prayer updates

As was announced last week, **Elaine Holloway** contracted shingles. She reports that, although she is feeling better, she stills deals with pain and discomfort.

Gracie Feaker was very happy to be at church last week, but it did tire her out quite a bit. She is hoping that she has the energy and the breathing stamina to see everyone this week.

Willie Choate reports that he continues to feel good physically, but he has been dealing with some discouragement. He appreciates your prayers.

Jerry Thompson (who had laser surgery on his right eye on Feb. 8) had laser surgery on his left eye this past Monday. He returns to the eye doctor on Monday.

On Thursday, **Annette Payne** (who recently had surgery to bypass the clogged arteries in her leg) went for a follow-up visit. The doctor will see her again in two months. She reports that her foot hurts periodically.

Earlier this week, **Joy Hughes** of The Woodlands was diagnosed with pneumonia.

Bailey Lucas (granddaughter of **Stan** and **Roxanna West**), who had her appendix removed at Mother Frances Hospital in Tyler on Friday, Feb. 24, had a better week of recovery. Doctors were able to remove a nose tube, and she was able to walk more. The family appreciates your prayers for the trial of this 10-year-old girl and the extended family.

In the Jan. 28 bulletin, we mentioned that **Bill Allen** of Nashville, Tenn., fell from a ladder and suffered a broken leg. Since then, he learned that the screws inserted to refasten his leg had broken. But a recent X ray showed that the bone is healing well.

As was announced orally last week, two relatives of **Shirley Spearman** and her family were involved in a serious automobile accident on Friday, Feb. 24. The car flipped and caught on fire. The driver, a niece named **Jolene Ellis**, died in the fire. A passenger, a nephew named **Adron Thomas** (son of Shirley's sister, **Dorothy Thomas**) went to the hospital with injuries to his leg. Adron is also dealing with the emotional stress of knowing that he (and a truck driver who came upon the accident) could not do anything to get his cousin out of the burning car. Please remember the family in your prayers.

New prayer requests

On Monday, **Laura Moran** went to the doctor to diagnose her health challenges. The doctor ruled out the flu and confirmed bronchitis. She uses a vaporizer during the day and at night. On Wednesday, she is scheduled to visit a pulmonary doctor.

Danny Maloney of Newman, Ga., was told that he has a suspicious spot on his brain. The doctors are also checking for lung cancer.

Peter Williams, a 15-year-old from Toledo, Ohio, was recently diagnosed with large diffuse B-cell lymphoma. When the family wanted a second opinion, they traveled to M.D. Anderson in Houston. The second diagnosis was Burkitt's lymphoma—which is considered a more-aggressive cancer with a higher probability of relapse in the first two years. The family decided to begin chemo treatments.

Rebecca Sitzlar of Knoxville, Tenn., has been diagnosed with melanoma.

Dameon DeRossett (a 4-year-old from Knoxville, Tenn.), who previously was diagnosed with juvenile diabetes, is scheduled to have his tonsils and adenoids removed. The diabetes creates challenges for any additional surgery.

Roger Foster of San Antonio died on Feb. 27. Please remember his wife, **Janice**, and the rest of the family in your prayers.

Scriptures to consider

Isaiah 1:10-15—Hear the word of the LORD, you rulers of Sodom; give ear to the law of our God, you people of Gomorrah: "To what purpose is the multitude of your sacrifices to Me?" says the LORD. "I have had enough of burnt offerings of rams and the fat of fed cattle. I do not delight in the blood of bulls, or of lambs or goats. When you come to appear before Me, who has required this from your hand, to trample My courts? Bring no more futile sacrifices; incense is an abomination to Me. The New Moons, the Sabbaths, and the calling of assemblies—I cannot endure iniquity and the sacred meeting. Your New Moons and your appointed feasts My soul hates; they are a trouble to Me, I am weary of bearing them. When you spread out your hands, I will hide My eyes from you; even though you make many prayers, I will not hear. Your hands are full of blood.

Isaiah 59:1-10—Behold, the LORD's hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; nor His ear heavy, that it cannot hear. But your iniquities have separated you from your God; and your sins have hidden His face from you, so that He will not hear. For your hands are defiled with blood, and your fingers with iniquity; your lips have spoken lies, your tongue has muttered perversity. No one calls for justice, nor does any plead for truth. They trust in empty words and speak lies; they conceive evil and bring forth iniquity. They hatch vipers' eggs and weave the spider's web; he who eats of their eggs dies, and from that which is crushed a viper breaks out. Their webs will not become garments, nor will they cover themselves with their works; their works are works of iniquity, and the act of violence is in their hands. Their feet run to evil, and they make haste to shed innocent blood; their thoughts are thoughts of iniquity; wasting and destruction are in their paths. The way of peace they have not known, and there is no justice in their ways; they have made themselves crooked paths; whoever takes that way shall not know peace. Therefore justice is far from us, nor does righteousness overtake us; we look for light, but there is darkness! For brightness, but we walk in blackness! We grope for the wall like the blind, and we grope as if we had no eyes; we stumble at noonday as at twilight; we are as dead men in desolate places.

“You Are What You Choose”

This article is from the “Among Friends” section of the Church of God Big Sandy’s website, churchofgodbigsandy.com. It was posted for the weekend of March 4, 2017.

By Dave Havir

BIG SANDY, Texas—In my article on Jan. 28, I wrote a few thoughts about personal denial and how a person can recognize who he is. In that article, I shared five ways in which a person can examine himself.

At this time, I want to give each of the five concepts its own personal article. In this article, we will discuss the fifth concept—you are what you choose.

Importance of choice

It is generally a liberating moment when people realize the power of choice. Choosing a frame of mind and a course of action is important when making decisions in this life.

Not only is the power of choice important before making a decision, it is vital in dealing with the consequences (good or bad) of the decision. Each individual must learn how to deal with success and failure.

Let’s take some time to see what the Bible says about choosing.

Life and blessing

There is a section of scripture in the book of Deuteronomy that quotes God discussing the importance of making wise choices.

Deuteronomy 30:15-18—“See, I have set before you today life and good, death and evil, in that I command you today to love the LORD your God, to walk in His ways, and to keep His commandments, His statutes, and His judgments, that you may live and multiply; and the LORD your God will bless you in the land which you go to possess. But if your heart turns away so that you do not hear, and are drawn away, and worship other gods and serve them, I announce to you today that you shall surely perish; you shall not prolong your days in the land which you cross over the Jordan to go in and possess.”

Deuteronomy 30:19-20—“I call heaven and earth as witnesses today against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing; therefore choose life, that both

you and your descendants may live; that you may love the LORD your God, that you may obey His voice, and that you may cling to Him, for He is your life and the length of your days; and that you may dwell in the land which the LORD swore to your fathers, to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, to give them.”

Choosing repentance

There is a scripture in the book of Proverbs that contrasts two approaches dealing with sin.

Proverbs 28:13—“He who covers his sins will not prosper, but whoever confesses and forsakes them will have mercy.”

Choosing light

It is amazing to consider how God created the human senses to be a doorway for either good or evil. Jesus Christ taught His disciples to allow the sense of sight to open up a world of light in our lives.

Matthew 6:22-23—“The lamp of the body is the eye. If therefore your eye is good, your whole body will be full of light. But if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in you is darkness, how great is that darkness!”

Choosing blessing

One of the first teaching sessions that Christ had for His disciples is called the Sermon on the Mount. The first part of that message (Matthew 5:3-12) is often called the Beatitudes.

- Blessed are the poor in spirit.
- Blessed are those who mourn.
- Blessed are the meek.
- Blessed are those who hunger and thirst after righteousness.
- Blessed are the merciful.
- Blessed are the pure in heart.
- Blessed are the peacemakers.
- Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake.
- Blessed are those who are falsely reviled and persecuted.