

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Church of God Big Sandy

ChurchofGodBigSandy.com

Jan. 6, 2018 • 2:00 p.m. • Sunset 5:28

Bible studies and classes

Interactive study (1:00)	Daniel Botha
Bible study (2:00)	John Reedy
Teen class	Martha Mclver
Kids' class	Jeanine Case

Order of service

Song leader	Reg Killingley
Pianist	Dixon Cartwright
Scripture reading	Rev. 7:1-17 by Daniel Botha
Sermon	Jim Johns

Quick takes

1. Beware of the flu—According to multiple sources in the news media, the East Texas area has the highest per-capita volume of flu in the United States. (Tyler and Longview have been specifically mentioned by some news outlets.) Please use caution when interacting with crowds.
2. Welcome to Tyler congregation—Welcome to the Tyler congregation of the Church of God International. We enjoy the various times through the year when we can have a church service together.
3. Welcome to guest speaker—Jim and Sue Johns (of a sister congregation in Harrisburg, Pa.) are visiting the area this weekend. Mr. Johns, who has spoken at many of our Feast of Tabernacles sites, is scheduled to give the sermon today.
4. Potluck meal today—A potluck meal is scheduled immediately after the church service today.
5. Bounce houses tonight—Neil Mclver has arranged to have two bounce houses in the building tonight. Feel free to invite younger family members to come share in the fun.
6. Food drive for the community—If you would like to donate some canned goods, please bring them to the foyer of our church building. Thank you.

7. Thank you—Morris and Linda Foster thank everyone who helped at the barn dance and chili supper last Saturday evening.
8. Edifying the Body—This week's article is "Turn the Other Cheek—Really?" by Reg Killingley.
9. Among Friends—The week's article is "I Wish You Bad Luck" by Dave Havir.
10. Eye on the World—This week's "Eye on the World" is 22 pages.

Prayer updates

On Tuesday, **Al Donahue** went to the Mother Frances Hospital in Tyler to have two stents inserted in his kidneys. He was anticipating going home in a few days, but the doctor found a problem. One of the kidneys was not draining like it should. So the doctor removed the good stent, but left the other stent in an effort to complete the purpose. He is in room 5551.

Stan Roberts (in the hospice facility in Tyler) has taken a turn for the worse. He had been very talkative. On Friday, Dec. 29, the personnel at the facility were talking about releasing him. Shortly thereafter, he ceased talking to visitors. The family believes he is in his last days. He is in room 206.

Eli Benedict reports moderate progress. The cancer sore is small (but not gone). The rash has been a little bit worse this week. His ankles are still swollen. Mr. Benedict has been blessed to be very active for his age. Now he is trying to find the right balance between staying active and finding time to sit with his ankle elevated about the height of his heart (a common practice for people with swelling).

Laura Moran has been diagnosed with hyperthyroidism.

Betty Foster reports that she has not had any follow-up need to take a nitroglycerin tablet this week. On Thursday, she went to the doctor and was diagnosed with another urinary-tract infection.

In last week's bulletin, we mentioned that **Annette Payne** was anticipating a follow-up visit with her doctor to evaluate the little tumor on her tongue. She reports that she didn't go to the doctor this week because she didn't have a ride. (**Dave Havir** offered to give her a ride, if she had given him enough notice.) On the bright side, she thinks the tumor has gotten smaller.

In last week's bulletin, we mentioned that **Rebecca Sapp** of Gladewater (daughter of **Annette Payne**) was going to begin her five-week regimen of chemo and radiation (for cervix cancer) at M.D. Anderson in Houston on Jan. 2. She traveled home yesterday and is scheduled to return to Houston on Sunday for next week's treatments.

In last week's bulletin, we mentioned that **Lisa Grady** of Orlando, Fla. (daughter of **Annette Payne**), had a growth at her neck and was anticipating a biopsy. On Wednesday, she had the biopsy. She was scheduled yesterday to hear about the results, but she went to the funeral of her mother-in-law. She will hear the results after she returns home.

In last week's bulletin, we mentioned that **Katie Landrum** of Longview (**Annette Payne's** daughter-in-law), who had been diagnosed with cirrhosis of the liver, might be approaching the end of her life. On Tuesday, she went to the doctor and heard that her "liver is improving."

On Thursday, **Sonny Rosenberger** went to a new doctor (in Gladewater rather than in Holly Lake). He described the appointment as both doctor and patient getting to know each other. He appreciates the cards and letters that members of the congregation send to him.

Scott Smith of the Dallas area, who has brain damage and is in a vegetative state after being revived following his heart not beating for a prolonged period, is moving to hospice care. Please support the family in prayer.

Here are excerpts from an update from **Kim Skelton** concerning her husband, **Wynn Skelton**: "Wynn had his follow-up appointment with the neurologist (**Dr. Hamer**), who received the results from all the tests. From the MRI, there is still the bruising in the brain (front part), which takes about a year to completely heal. Wynn is feeling no ill effects from it at this point. It is possible that this [the bruising] is causing some minor sinus discomfort that he has been experiencing for a few weeks. His arteries are completely clear and healthy. His heart is strong, no sign of possibility of seizures. Dr. Hamer is referring Wynn to a cardiologist to get the correct prescription of blood-pressure meds. He strongly believes that the beta blocker med was too high of a dosage—causing the heart rate to drop and passing out to occur. We had already reduced the dosage of that med before the MRI tests, and he has been doing just fine. Wynn is on the mend, working and doing well. He is experiencing a bit more fatigue since the accident, so he is looking how he can best reduce any added stress."

Sara Scott of Pasadena, Calif., died on Dec. 29. Please remember her husband, **Bill**, and the rest of the family in your prayers.

New prayer requests

Aubrey Roberts, 9-year-old daughter of **Gramm** and **April Roberts** of Shreveport, La. (granddaughter of **Stan** and **Roxanna West** and great-granddaughter of **Shirley West**), was diagnosed with autoimmune thyroiditis. She is scheduled for autoimmune testing for the continuing swelling in her knee. She is on a high dose of thyroid medication, but her lab numbers remain very high.

On Tuesday, **Patsy Williams** of Longview (a friend of the **Havir** family) was admitted to the Good Shepherd Medical Center in Longview due to strokelike symptoms. The doctors diagnosed that she was dehydrated and she was released on the next day.

On Wednesday, **John Hopkinson** of Pasadena, Calif., had a heart attack. On Thursday, he was scheduled for a balloon angioplasty.

Don Hasten of Pasadena, Texas (son-in-law of **Eli Benedict**), died on Dec. 30. Please remember his wife, **Patti**, and the rest of the family in your prayers.

Lois Quillen of Huntington Beach, Calif., died on Jan. 1. Please remember the family in your prayers.

“I Wish You Bad Luck”

This article is from the “Among Friends” section of the Church of God Big Sandy’s Web site, churchofgodbig sandy.com. It was posted for the weekend of Jan. 6, 2017.

By Dave Havir

BIG SANDY, Texas—In my circle of life, I am associated with people who are interested in helping people (including family, friends, neighbors and co-workers) to deal with the challenges of life. While we enjoy the many blessings that God bestows upon us, we understand that our Heavenly Father allows people to face challenges and trials.

We believe that God has promised to help people through those challenges and trials.

Two popular theories

Before we go any further, I want to briefly state my objection to two popular theories among many religious people.

■ I don’t believe in the “health-and-wealth” gospel.

The premise of that theory is twofold. First, if you obey God, you will be healthy and wealthy. Second, if you are unhealthy and poor, the reason is because you did not obey God.

Notice Philippians 3:8-10 and 1 Peter 4:15-16.

■ I don’t believe in the “name-it, claim-it” view of faith.

The premise of that theory is that a person should dogmatically claim something from God and He is required to give it. While I believe in the importance of communicating with God and in the power of faith, I don’t think that religious people should be bossing God around. (Can you imagine physical parents being required to acquiesce to the demands of 2-year-olds, 16-year-olds or 20-year-olds?)

It is true that the Son of God taught people to be persistent in prayer (Luke 11:1-8 and Luke 18:1-8). Think about it. Persistence in prayer is important because the Father (who is in charge of the family) allows His children to express their desires with Him—in an effort to convince Him, not demand from Him.

Notice 2 Corinthians 12:8-10.

Helpful words

As I mentioned earlier, I am associated with people who are interested in helping people face their challenges.

Recently at an interactive Bible study, one of my friends recommended that the audience become familiar with a speech given by Chief Justice John Roberts on June 3, 2017, during his son’s ninth-grade commencement at Cardigan Mountain School (a New Hampshire boarding school for boys in grades six through nine).

The speech has been advertised with a phrase from the speech—“I Wish You Bad Luck.” I want to quote from a portion of the speech.

“Now, the commencement speakers will typically also wish you good luck and extend good wishes to you. I will not do that, and I’ll tell you why.

“From time to time in the years to come, I hope you will be treated unfairly, so that you will come to know the value of justice. I hope that you will suffer betrayal because that will teach you the importance of loyalty.

“Sorry to say, but I hope you will be lonely from time to time so that you don’t take friends for granted.

“I wish you bad luck, again, from time to time so that you will be conscious of the role of chance in life and understand that your success is not completely deserved and that the failure of others is not completely deserved either.

“And when you lose, as you will from time to time, I hope every now and then, your opponent will gloat over your failure. It is a way for you to understand the importance of sportsmanship.

“I hope you’ll be ignored so you know the importance of listening to others, and I hope you will have just enough pain to learn compassion.

“Whether I wish these things or not, they’re going to happen. And whether you benefit from them or not will depend upon your ability to see the message in your misfortunes.”