

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Church of God Big Sandy

ChurchofGodBigSandy.com

Feb. 3, 2018 • 2:00 p.m. • Sunset 5:54

Bible studies and classes

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| Interactive study (1:00) | Daniel Botha |
| Bible study (2:00) | Neil Mclver |
| Teen class | Martha Mclver |
| Kids' class | TBA |

Order of service

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| Song leader | Ron Avey |
| Pianist | Dixon Cartwright |
| Scripture reading | Rev. 11:1-14 by Neil Mclver |
| Sermon | Daniel Botha |

Quick takes

1. Chili meal today—There is a chili meal (with a few other complementary items) scheduled shortly after the church service today. Everyone is invited to stay.
2. Thank you to the Budget Committee—Thank you to the members of the congregation who were part of the Budget Committee that met on Tuesday evening in the building. This committee will submit its budget to the board at the next board meeting.
3. Board meeting on Feb. 19—There is a board meeting scheduled in the building on Monday, Feb. 19, at 6:30 p.m.
4. Interrelating with other congregations—Today, Dave Havir is giving a sermon in Houston. (He is planning to stay tonight in that area to spend some time with George and Rosemary Crow (who live there) and with Terry and Judy Post (who are traveling there).)
5. Thank you for food donations—Sharon Hill (the manager of Agape House in Big Sandy) expressed appreciation for “the food donations and your service to the community.”

6. Continued food drive for the community—If you would like to make additional donations of canned goods for the community, please bring them to the foyer of our church building.
7. Edifying the Body—This week's article is "Marriage Is Under Attack in America" by Eric Metaxas.
8. Among Friends—The week's article is "Comments About Romans 4" by Dave Havir.
9. Eye on the World—This week's "Eye on the World" is 24 pages.

Prayer updates

Al Donahue continues to exhibit low energy and little appetite at Mother Frances Hospital in Tyler (in room 6644). On Thursday, he told **Dave Havir** that the doctors are still concerned about a tumor in his bladder, but they have not been addressing treatment due to the ongoing infection. Doctors have treated the kidneys by inserting and removing stents to help drainage.

Eli and **Jean Benedict** report that there is some improvement for both of them concerning the rash and the swelling. Mr. Benedict still has pain in his back (after his recent lifting while working with the animals).

On Thursday, **Betty Foster** was able to go home. In the Jan. 13 bulletin, we mentioned that Betty thought there were no broken bones after the fall in her home. However, one of the doctors said that she has five cracked vertebrae. (She also was diagnosed with pneumonia while she was in Mother Frances Hospital.)

Sonny Rosenberger appreciates the prayers for his ongoing health challenges.

Laura Moran has days when she deals with the effects of diverticulitis.

Elaine Holloway reports that the extreme swelling in her legs continues and that the condition now includes seepage.

Last week, we mentioned a general oral request by **Judy Biggs** for her son **Brian Biggs**. Mrs. Biggs reported that he is doing better.

On Thursday, **Annette Payne** is scheduled for surgery to deal with a knot on her tongue.

Rebecca Sapp of Gladewater (daughter of **Annette Payne**) has finished her five-week regimen of chemo and radiation (for cervix cancer) at M.D. Anderson in Houston. On Tuesday, the doctors are scheduled to examine her condition to see if she will need surgery.

On Sunday, **Lance Holloway** of Lindale (son of **Elaine Holloway**), who was recently diagnosed with cancer in his right lung and his bronchial tubes, was able to be released from the hospital (which was earlier than anticipated). He has restarted his aggressive regimen of chemo and radiation treatment that was interrupted due to pneumonia.

New prayer requests

Marilyn Boston has been dealing with back pain.

On Thursday, **Gracie Feaker** went to a doctor and heard that she is retaining fluid again, probably due to an enlarged heart.

On Wednesday evening, **Elaine Akins** went to an emergency room due to dizziness, burning in her chest and slight nausea. She was diagnosed as being dehydrated and having a slight ear infection. She returned home before midnight and worked a couple of hours on Thursday.

Terry Post of La Vernia has been dealing with back pain that has made it difficult for him to walk without a walker. He was scheduled for a CT scan yesterday with the hope of traveling to Houston to visit with the congregation there during the church visit by **Dave Havir** this weekend.

Leon Avery of Tulsa, Okla., has had a lifelong problem with a defect in his throat that can affect his swallowing and breathing. The problem has lately worsened.

Wilma Reed of Trussville, Ala. (mother of **Jeff Reed** of the CGI in Tyler), went home from the hospital on Wednesday. She was initially hospitalized with pancreatitis. While there, she underwent a biopsy and doctors concluded that there was no cancer. When she went home, they arranged for IV treatment in her house due to an abscess in her liver.

Becky Burney of Priceville, Ala., who has been diagnosed with breast cancer, has been placed under hospice care.

Scriptures to consider

Jeremiah 9:23-24—Thus says the LORD: “Let not the wise man glory in his wisdom, Let not the mighty man glory in his might, nor let the rich man glory in his riches; but let him who glories glory in this, that he understands and knows Me, that I am the LORD, exercising lovingkindness, judgment, and righteousness in the earth. For in these I delight,” says the LORD.

Jeremiah 17:5-6—Thus says the LORD: “Cursed is the man who trusts in man and makes flesh his strength, whose heart departs from the LORD. For he shall be like a shrub in the desert, and shall not see when good comes, but shall inhabit the parched places in the wilderness, in a salt land which is not inhabited.”

Jeremiah 17:7-8—“Blessed is the man who trusts in the LORD, and whose hope is the LORD. For he shall be like a tree planted by the waters, which spreads out its roots by the river, and will not fear when heat comes; but its leaf will be green, and will not be anxious in the year of drought, nor will cease from yielding fruit.”

Jeremiah 17:9-10—“The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked; who can know it? I, the LORD, search the heart, I test the mind, even to give every man according to his ways, according to the fruit of his doings.”

“Comments About Romans 4”

This article is from the “Among Friends” section of the Church of God Big Sandy’s website, churchofgodbigandy.com. It was posted for the weekend of Feb. 3, 2018.

By Dave Havir

BIG SANDY, Texas—Recently, I began a series of brief articles to discuss chapters in the book of Romans. This week, we will talk about chapter 4.

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

Abraham and faith

In chapter 3, we noted how the apostle Paul mentioned the righteousness of God apart from the law (Romans 3:21) and through faith (verse 22).

Paul mentioned redemption through Christ Jesus (verses 24-26), a person’s boasting should not be in the law (verses 27-30), and the law still has value (verse 31).

In chapter 4, Paul continued the discussion by discussing Abraham and circumcision.

■ If Abraham was justified by deeds, he had something of which to boast—but not before God (Romans 4:1-2).

■ Paul paraphrased Genesis 15:6 (verse 3).

Romans 4:3—“For what does the Scripture say? ‘Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness.’”

■ Paul mentioned that depending upon deeds focuses on debt instead of grace (verse 4).

Mentioning David

Although the vast majority of chapter 4 discusses Abraham, Paul did make a brief mention about David (verses 5-8).

■ Paul paraphrased Psalm 32:1-2 (verses 7-8).

Romans 4:7-8—“Blessed are those whose lawless deeds are forgiven, and whose sins are covered; blessed is the man to whom the LORD shall not impute sin.”

Before circumcision

Paul makes a strong case about faith by mentioning that Abraham was justified before circumcision (verses 9-12).

■ Does God accept only those who are

circumcised (verse 9)?

■ Was Abraham accepted only after he was circumcised (verse 10)? No, he was accepted while he was uncircumcised (verses 10-12).

Promise through faith

Paul continued to use the example of Abraham to show that the promise came through faith.

■ The promise to Abraham was not through the law (verse 13).

■ The law cannot make faith void and cannot make the promise of no effect (verse 14).

■ The law actually brings wrath—in that it reveals sin (verse 15).

■ The promise came through the faith of Abraham (verse 16).

■ Paul paraphrased Genesis 17:5 (verse 17) and Genesis 15:5 (verse 18).

■ Paul mentioned how the promise did not depend upon the limitations of his age and Sarah’s age (verse 19).

Romans 4:19—“And not being weak in faith, he did not consider his own body, already dead (since he was about a hundred years old), and the deadness of Sarah’s womb.”

■ Abraham believed the promise (verses 20-21).

Romans 4:20-21—“He did not waver at the promise of God through unbelief, but was strengthened in faith, giving glory to God, and being fully convinced that what He had promised He was also able to perform.”

■ Paul again paraphrased Genesis 15:6 (verse 22).

■ Paul mentioned how the promise to Abraham was connected to the resurrection of the Son of God (verses 23-25).

Romans 4:23-25—“Now it was not written for his sake alone that it was imputed to him, but also for us. It shall be imputed to us who believe in Him who raised up Jesus our Lord from the dead, who was delivered up because of our offenses, and was raised because of our justification.”