

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Church of God Big Sandy

ChurchofGodBigSandy.com

Nov. 30, 2019 • 1:00 p.m. • Sunset 5:14

Bible studies and classes

Interactive study (1:00) Dave Havir
Bible study (2:00) Daniel Botha
Teen class Martha Mclver

Order of service—3:00 p.m.

Song leader Daniel Botha
Pianist Dixon Cartwright
Scripture reading Hebrews 11:17–22
Sermon John Dickerson

Quick takes

1. Welcome to guest speaker—The congregation welcomes John Dickerson. Mr. Dickerson is scheduled to give the sermon today.
2. Upcoming guest speakers—The congregation is pleased to announce that several guest speakers are scheduled to visit our congregation in the near future.
 - Today John Dickerson
 - Dec. 7 Jim Johns
 - Dec. 21 George Crow
3. Thank you—Thank you to all the individuals who served at the annual Big Sandy Community Thanksgiving church service last Sunday night in our church building. (Those individuals from our congregation who served included Linda Avey, Ron Avey, Carol Bald, Michael Bald, Joyce Coleman, Andrew Mclver and Shirley West.)
4. Size of community church service—Before the event, we were told that the size of the audience at previous community Thanksgiving church services has been around 75. We are happy to report that 105 people came to this year's church service.

5. Our presentation at community church service—Weeks ago, Dave Havir had communicated with Jerome Ellard that our congregation would provide a showing of our DVD titled *The Harvest*. In the printed program, Mr. Havir was listed as the last presenter during the service. On the night before the event, Mr. Havir asked if our presentation could be moved to the first presentation. Mr. Ellard agreed. Mr. Havir introduced the video by mentioning that the DVD would be about eight minutes in length. He reminded the audience that a common theme in the Bible is that calamity precedes restoration. He explained that the first three minutes of the DVD talked about calamity in the world today and that the last five minutes of the DVD talked about God's promise of restoration. Mr. Havir felt that the DVD would set a nice tone for the evening and that the new final presentation of singing patriotic songs would be a very positive conclusion.
6. Interactive this week—The interactive Bible study today is scheduled to be "The Tenth Commandment" moderated by Dave Havir.
7. Edifying the Body—This week's article is "Scientists: Dishonest or Afraid?" by Walter Williams.
8. Among Friends—This week's article is "The Sixth Commandment" by Dave Havir.
9. Eye on the World—This week's "Eye on the World" is 22 pages.

Prayer updates

Please remember to pray for the following people who are not able to regularly attend our church service—**Vi Lehman, Sonny Rosenberger** and **Timberly Dunnam**.

On Tuesday, the scheduled appointment for **Laura Moran** to see a rheumatologist was postponed.

Elaine Holloway continues to rehab at Legend Oaks Nursing Home in Gladewater. She is in Room 109.

Ron Feaker continues to rehab at Legend Oaks Nursing Home in Gladewater. He is in Room 412.

New prayer requests

Vonda Ouellette of Houston has been diagnosed with a cancerous growth on her face and is scheduled for surgery on Wednesday.

Bea Gusner reports that her husband, **Willie**, was recently dealing with a lot of pain from an inflamed and enlarged gall bladder. He was scheduled for surgery on Friday, Nov. 22. Following an ultrasound on Thursday (Nov. 21), the surgery was postponed until this past Sunday (Nov. 24). Mrs. Gusner reported that his recovery had some difficulties. On Thursday, his white-blood count climbed. On Friday, the hospital moved him back into the ICU section. His hemoglobin was measured at 7 and the arrangements were made for him to receive a blood transfusion.

“The Blessing of Being Alive”

This article is from the “Edifying the Body” section of the Church of God Big Sandy’s website, churchofgodbigandy.com. It was posted for the weekend of Nov. 24, 2018. This article was taken from notes that Mrs. West compiled for an oral presentation at a community Thanksgiving church service on Nov. 18, 2018.

By Shirley Dobbs West

BIG SANDY, Texas—I strongly believe in the sanctity of life. Therefore, I am pro-life and the reason is very personal.

My parents were married in 1932. My mother lacked one month being 15 years old and my daddy was 24.

My grandmother gave permission for the marriage because doctors had told her she had only a few months to live. She knew Daddy would take good care of her young daughter. She made Daddy promise that Mother would not have a child before she was at least 18 years old.

In the spring of 1935, my mother became pregnant. My parents wanted a child and they were joyful. But one day Daddy came in from work and found mother on the floor. He thought she was dead. He carefully laid her on the bed and she came to—crying in pain and anguish. Then, she passed out again.

Terrified, Daddy ran two miles to the country store that had a phone to call the doctor.

The doctor came and thought Mother was having a miscarriage. But, as time went on and the pain and anguish continued, he knew something else was wrong. He called an ambulance to take Mother to the hospital, 16 miles away.

At the hospital, he conferred with another doctor and they decided the only way to save Mother’s life was to abort her child.

Mother refused and begged Daddy, “Please don’t let them take my baby.” Daddy wouldn’t sign the consent form.

An elderly doctor was in the hospital attending to a patient. The younger doctors consulted him and he examined Mother.

He told them: “This woman will die if you take her baby. With surgery I believe the mother and baby can be saved. But I am too old to do the surgery.”

The younger doctors said they would do the surgery under the supervision of the older doc-

tor. They also promised Mother they would not take the baby unless it was absolutely necessary. She agreed to the surgery.

I don’t know what the problem was, but the surgery was successful. Mother had to have care the rest of her pregnancy. My grandmother (who was to live three more years) took care of her.

On Oct. 18, 1935, Mother was 18 years old. She was with child, but she had not given birth. So, technically, Daddy had kept his promise.

On Dec. 30, 1935, I was born.

I wasn’t breathing. The doctor put me in a basin of warm water and then in one of cold water. That shocked me into breathing and I let out a good, healthy cry.

The family story is that my grandmother was so happy she slapped the doctor on the back and he almost dropped me.

I wasn’t the only miracle that December night. It snowed in western Oklahoma, which was the first moisture in 13 months in that drought-stricken area of the Dust Bowl.

I was 40 years old when Daddy told me the story of my birth. He also said I was 15 years old before he got the hospital bill paid.

I am now almost 83 years old. And just think—I could have been a statistic in a dusty record book in the Beckham County courthouse that reads, “Dobbs—girl—aborted at three months—June 1935.”

Because of God’s mercy, my mother’s courage and my parents’ love, I have had many wonderful opportunities. I have had the opportunity to be a wife for 60 wonderful years and be a mother, grandmother and great-grandmother.

Each birthday, I remember God’s mercy, Mother’s courage and Daddy’s love for his wife and unborn child. And I say a prayer of thanksgiving for the blessing of being alive.

Oh, by the way. My grandmother lived to see my children.

We serve an awesome, awesome God.

“The Sixth Commandment”

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 Nov. 30, 2019.

By Dave Havir

BIG SANDY, Texas—We as believers are thankful that we are saved by grace. In fact, we should reflect our appreciation by giving much thought and attention into recognizing God’s expectations for us.

We can reflect back to the time in the Old Testament when the children of Israel were brought out of the land of Egypt—the house of bondage (Exodus 20:1-2)—and remember that God gave them instructions about how to live (verses 3-17).

Let’s spend some time considering the sixth commandment.

Exodus 20:13—“You shall not murder.”

Hebrew word

Although the King James Version of the Bible and some other Bible translations quote the Sixth Commandment as “You shall not kill,” many other translations have the better translation of “You shall not murder.”

The Hebrew word *rasah* is translated into 11 different English words in the King James Version of the Bible. Here is the breakdown—“slayer” (17 times); “murderer” (13 times); “kill” (four times); “murder” (three times); “slain” (three times); “manslayer” (two times); and five other words that are used only one time each.

Many people can easily see why the other translations use the English word *murder* instead of *kill*. And many people can also recognize the difference in the concepts of murdering and killing.

Cities of refuge

Many judicial systems in the world today differentiate between the action of manslaughter and the action of murder.

This was also true in the Old Testament system given to the children of Israel. An interesting study from the Old Testament is to examine the cities of refuge.

In that study, people find Numbers 35, which describes a different approach towards man-

slaughter (verses 11-15 and verses 22-28) from the approach towards murder (verses 16-21).

For the record

At this time, I would like to acknowledge that some critics of the Bible love to spotlight the contrast of the Sixth Commandment with the Old Testament supporting the concept of capital punishment.

They wonder how God could instruct against murder and yet allow a system that “murders” criminals.

Although that discussion is a bigger topic than the space allotted for this article, I would like to quickly mention the ideas of due process (Numbers 35:30-31) and deterrence (Deuteronomy 13:11).

Magnifying the law

One of the great lessons Jesus Christ taught in the New Testament was how He magnified the law of God.

The good news was that believers were not going to be punished under what the apostle Paul called the administration of death (2 Corinthians 3:7). Paul went on to say that, although the administration of death had merit, the administration of life was better (verses 8-11).

Under the New Covenant, people who repent do not necessarily suffer the immediate penalty for sin.

Higher expectations

Along with the greater mercy of the New Covenant came some higher expectations of believers. In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus explained a tougher standard for disciples to follow concerning the Sixth Commandment.

Matthew 5:21-22—“You have heard that it was said to those of old, ‘You shall not murder, and whoever murders will be in danger of the judgment.’ But I say to you that whoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment. And whoever says to his brother, ‘Raca!’ shall be in danger of the council. But whoever says, ‘You fool!’ shall be in danger of hell fire.”