

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## Church of God Big Sandy

ChurchofGodBigSandy.com

Dec. 11, 2021 • 1:00 p.m. • Sunset 5:14

### Bible studies

Interactive study—1:00 p.m. . . . . Dave Havir  
Presentation study—2:00 . . . . . Dave Havir  
(Also transmitted live)

### Order of service—3:00 p.m.

Song leader . . . . . Ron Avey  
Pianist . . . . . Dixon Cartwright  
Scripture reading . . . . . Daniel 3:1–30  
Sermon . . . . . Wynn Skelton

### Quick takes

1. Speaker change—Richard Crow was scheduled to be the guest speaker today, but during the week he was diagnosed with covid. We are happy to report that he is experiencing only mild symptoms. The congregation looks forward to his rescheduling.
2. Thank you—The congregation thanks Wynn Skelton for volunteering to give the sermon today.
3. Bad weather doesn't stop us—Since the beginning of this congregation, it has been our tradition to avoid canceling a church service due to weather. We expect each individual to use personal judgment and freedom for himself and his family. (Besides, you could join our Internet audience to watch our presentations online.)
4. Loss of electricity could slow us down—Although the circumstance would be rare, we would probably cancel a church service in the building due to a loss of electricity. (However, knowing our audience, anyone who showed up might enjoy a small Bible study—as long as we stayed warm enough.)
5. Wednesday-night Bible study on Dec. 15—The next Wednesday-night Bible study is scheduled for Dec. 15.
6. Upcoming speakers—We are pleased to announce the following guest speakers coming to our congregation: Scott Hoefker, Dec. 18, and Blake Silverstein, Jan. 8.

7. Please remember to pray for the following people who are not able to regularly attend our church service: Mickey Ashcraft, David and Becky Bonilla, Timberly Dunnam, Elaine Holloway, Annette Payne, Ruth Roe, Sonny Rosenberger, Ronnie Shirley, Elaine Townsend and Donna Weese.
8. Contact information for Elaine Holloway—Mrs. Holloway requests contact from friends through visits, telephone calls or mail. Please check the small bulletin board in the back of the hall for information about how to contact Mrs. Holloway.
9. Edifying the Body—This week’s article is “The Left’s Vision” by Thomas Sowell.
10. Among Friends—This week’s article is “Matthew 25:14–30” by Dave Havir.
11. Eye on the World—This week’s “Eye on the World” is 42 pages. (This edition has 10 articles and 269 headlines.)

## Prayer updates

On Tuesday evening, **Timberly Dunnam** had an increase of pain and therefore went to an ER in Longview for relief. The family continues to wait to hear from Longview Orthopedics to establish an appointment.

**Doyle Welborn** reports that he is advancing. He mentioned that he has no pain and that his energy is slowly returning. He had two sessions of physical therapy in his home this week—but he has progressed to the point that he will do the exercises on his own. Although he has been using a cane, the physical therapist advised him to begin walking without the cane this week—which will work different muscles in his recovery.

**Leslie Harroff**, who had been dealing with severe pain in her lower back and hip, reports that she is feeling much better. (**Dave Havir** asked her if she was faking to get sympathy. She responded: “Yes, you’ve figured me out.”)

Yesterday, **Andrew Mclver** (who has been experiencing digestive issues and had lost 15 pounds since the Feast of Tabernacles) visited a gastroenterologist. Mr. Mclver is pleased that the doctor did not have a drastic reaction. Rather, he suggested some smaller steps to consider.

In last week’s bulletin, we mentioned that **Cassandra Jenkins** (daughter of **Shirley Spearman**) recently had surgery to remove parts of her hand and was hospitalized for surgery to deal with infection in that area of her body. On Wednesday, she was able to be discharged from the hospital.

Please remember **Tim Roe** (son of **Ruth Roe**), who is dealing with intense pain (in his back, shoulder and knees) that affects his sleep.

Please remember **Brian Biggs**, who is dealing with health challenges associated with his gallbladder.

Please remember **Jimmy Rogers** of Denton, who had five treatments of radiation to address lung cancer in the lower part of his right lung and is anticipating chemotherapy treatment in January to deal with a cancer spot in the upper part of his stomach.

## New prayer requests

This week, **Byron** and **Anda Roach** (cousins of **Ronnie Shirley**) contacted **Dave Havar** to inform us of some recent health problems of Mr. Shirley. Mr. Shirley had been hospitalized and was moved to the Everest Rehab Facility (at 701 E. Loop 281 in Longview). The family had hired individuals to sit with Mr. Shirley. They found Mr. Havar's telephone number in Mr. Shirley's phone. After they talked to Mr. Havar, they sent the following report: "Thank you, Pastor Dave, for your prayers, kind concern and generous financial contribution. Ronnie loves his church and watches faithfully online." The cousins request that a few members of the congregation stop in to see Mr. Shirley.

**Jeff** and **Sharon Ledy** of Laingsburg, Mich., have been diagnosed with covid.

**Sherry** (husband) and **Sharon Hill** of Chapmanville, W.Va., have been diagnosed with covid.

**Rob** and **Twila Sewell** of Joplin, Mo., have been diagnosed with covid.

## Suffering of the Son of God

**Luke 11:53-54**—And as He said these things to them, the scribes and the Pharisees began to assail Him vehemently, and to cross-examine Him about many things, lying in wait for Him, and seeking to catch Him in something He might say, that they might accuse Him.

**Luke 20:20**—So they watched Him, and sent spies who pretended to be righteous, that they might seize on His words, in order to deliver Him to the power and the authority of the governor.

**Luke 22:44**—And being in agony, He prayed more earnestly. Then His sweat became like great drops of blood falling down to the ground.

**Luke 22:48**—But Jesus said to him, "Judas, are you betraying the Son of Man with a kiss?"

**Luke 22:61**—And the Lord turned and looked at Peter. And Peter remembered the word of the Lord, how He had said to him, "Before the rooster crows, you will deny Me three times."

**Hebrews 4:14-15**—Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin.

**Hebrews 5:7-8**—Who, in the days of His flesh, when He had offered up prayers and supplications, with vehement cries and tears to Him who was able to save Him from death, and was heard because of His godly fear, though He was a Son, yet He learned obedience by the things which He suffered.

**1 Peter 2:21**—"For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow His steps."

## “Matthew 25:14–30”

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 Dec. 11, 2021.

**By Dave Havir**

**B**IG SANDY, Texas—At our Wednesday-night Bible studies, I recently began a series covering Matthew 25. After presenting the material orally on Wednesday night, I decided to write a short article about the material for the Saturday bulletin.

Today, we will talk about Matthew 25:14-30. This section of Scripture is often called the parable of the talents. The main characters in the story are an overseer and three employees. The main props are talents.

### Value of a talent

Here is how *Strong’s Concordance* describes the Greek word (*talanton*).

- “Weight and monetary unit (about 57 to 80 pounds).”
- “A talent of silver was about 6,000 days’ wages (*denarii*) of a common laborer.”
- “Often implying a vast, unattainable amount.”

### Given according to ability

**Matthew 25:15**—“And to one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one, to each according to his own ability; and immediately he went on a journey.”

### Two produced a profit

**Matthew 25:16-17**—“Then he who had received the five talents went and traded with them, and made another five talents. And likewise he who had received two gained two more also.”

To the two individuals who gained extra talents the lord said in Matthew 25:21 and 23: “Well done, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.”

### One was afraid

**Matthew 25:18**—“But he who had received one went and dug in the ground, and hid his lord’s money.”

**Matthew 25:24-25**—“Then he who had received the one talent came and said, ‘Lord, I

knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you have not sown, and gathering where you have not scattered seed. And I was afraid, and went and hid your talent in the ground. Look, there you have what is yours.’”

### Not happy with the fearful

**Matthew 25:26-28**—“But his lord answered and said to him, ‘You wicked and lazy servant, you knew that I reap where I have not sown, and gather where I have not scattered seed. So you ought to have deposited my money with the bankers, and at my coming I would have received back my own with interest. Therefore take the talent from him, and give it to him who has ten talents.’”

### Why give it to him?

Notice a verse from a similar parable in Luke 19.

**Luke 19:25**—“But they said to him, ‘Master, he has ten minas [a mina was an ancient unit of weight and equal to 1/60 talent].’”

The answer in Luke 19:26 and Matthew 25:29 doesn’t satisfy everyone.

**Matthew 25:29**—“For to everyone who has, more will be given, and he will have abundance; but from him who does not have, even what he has will be taken away.”

A more-convincing answer can be found in a different parable in Matthew 20:1-16.

**Matthew 20:15**—“Is it not lawful for me to do what I wish with my own things? Or is your eye evil because I am good?”

### Few reminders

Consider the following verses as you seek to fulfill our Father’s expectations.

**Luke 14:14**—“And you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you; for you shall be repaid at the resurrection of the just.”

**Galatians 6:9**—“And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart.”

**Hebrews 6:10**—“For God is not unjust to forget your work and labor of love which you have shown toward His name, in that you have ministered to the saints, and do minister.”