

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Church of God Big Sandy

ChurchofGodBigSandy.com

July 22, 2023 • 1:00 p.m. • Sunset 8:24

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 Neil McIver

Pianist Dixon Cartwright

Scripture reading Revelation 1:1–11

Sermon Blake Silverstein

Quick takes

1. Welcome—The congregation welcomes Blake Silverstein.
2. Invitation from the McIvers—Neil and Martha McIver invite you to share a meal with them tonight in the building as they recognize Martha's birthday.
3. Upcoming memorial services—Here is a reminder for two additional memorial services scheduled for members of our congregation.
 - Sonny Rosenberger Saturday, July 29, at 12:30 p.m.
 - David Bonilla Sunday, Aug. 20, at 1:00 p.m.
4. Wednesday-night Bible study this week—July 26
5. Edifying the Body—This week's article is "Apply the Law Equally to All" by Star Parker.
6. Among Friends—This week's article is "Bearing Fruit—Part 3" by Dave Havir.
7. Eye on the World—The version of this week's "Eye on the World" that is distributed in the hall is 38 pages. (The number of pages on the website varies slightly due to a different layout program.) This edition has 330 headlines and six articles.

Thank-you to Lyle and Kathy Kerby

On Wednesday, Kathy Kerby (of Grantsville, W.Va.), communicated with Dave Havir to inform him that she and her husband, Lyle, had decided to stop coordinating the Feast of Tabernacles site in North Myrtle Beach after this coming year. It was a very difficult decision for them, since they had served as coordinators of that particular Feast site for 20 years.

Although we helped them with the site for 20 years (primarily by lending our good name and by organizing the speaking schedule), make no mistake about it—Lyle and Kathy Kerby were the leading servants at that site. Following is what Dave Havir wrote to the Kerbys and shared with friends around the country.

“Thank you for your E-mail informing me about your decision concerning the future plans for the Feast of Tabernacles in Myrtle Beach. Your reasons made perfect sense.

“Is this the 21st year that you and Lyle coordinated the site? The two of you have provided excellent leadership at the Myrtle Beach Feast site for two decades. Although you will give credit to God for all those good years there, you were the glue that served so many people.

“You successfully reflected God, your family name and your congregation. (Thank you for allowing me and the Church of God Big Sandy to participate in so many successful conventions.)

“God bless you with continued good health and with spectacular time with your grandchildren.”

Prayer updates

In the March 25 bulletin, we mentioned that **Cindy Martin** of Lindale had been diagnosed with lymphoma. Last Monday, she sent the following update to **Dave Havir**: “I’m finished with chemo! The cancer is in complete remission. I don’t go back to Houston until November for a scan and checkup. Thanks for your prayers.”

In last week’s bulletin, we mentioned that **Lisa Smith** had surgery on Saturday, July 8, due to a ruptured appendix. On Sunday, she went home and was instructed to take it easy. Her mother, **Margaret Pitre** (who was anointed for diverticulitis), stayed with her all week to make sure that Mrs. Smith would take time to recover. Mrs. Smith is still prohibited from heavy lifting. She is scheduled to resume driving on Wednesday. She is planning to stay home today.

After **Angela Dunnam** recently completed her 20 radiation treatments under the initial plan, she will soon have a doctor’s appointment for further evaluation and discussion.

On Monday, **Mickey Voyce** had her first chemotherapy treatment. Her treatment schedule is a little different from that of many people—in that she is scheduled to have a chemo treatment once every three weeks. (Other people have regular treatments more often.) She appreciates your prayers.

On Tuesday, **Mareshia Garret** (daughter of **Stan** and **Roxanna West**) had her first chemotherapy treatment. Her treatment schedule is presently once a week.

In last week's bulletin, we mentioned that **Sue Jones** began dealing with back pain. On Monday, her sister **Elaine** took her to get an X-ray—which revealed scoliosis and multiple slipped disks. She reported: "The doctor gave me some helpful information for managing pain, while waiting for God's healing."

In last week's bulletin, we mentioned that **Gloria Hoppe** began experiencing severe pain in her right knee. On Sunday, she went to an ER, where the possibility of rheumatoid arthritis was mentioned and she was encouraged to see a rheumatologist. On Tuesday, a nurse (who routinely checks on her) was able to confirm the rheumatoid-arthritis diagnosis. Mrs. Hoppe has an appointment with a doctor scheduled in August. She appreciates your prayers and hopes to be at the church service today.

Gary Wilson had a normal week of rehab at his facility in Tyler.

Timberly Dunnam appreciates your prayers after she learned of her diagnosis of "an autoimmune skin disorder."

Shirley West requests prayers for her energy level to continue.

Becky Bonilla is dealing with kidney issues.

Shirley Spearman reports that she has trouble breathing, her legs are weak, and she has no energy.

Bea Gusner requests prayers for her breathing to improve.

New prayer requests

On Wednesday, **Marverick Clayton Stith** (great-grandson of **Stan** and **Roxanna West**) was born. Since he came two weeks early, he was initially given oxygen. The family was happy to report that he was quickly off the oxygen, and now the doctors are monitoring his eating habits. The family is thrilled with the birth and appreciative of your prayers.

On Monday, **Patricia Wilson** (sister of **Gary Wilson**) went to an ER due to pain. Since Mr. Wilson and **Lisa Smith** are dealing with their separate health challenges, **Dave Havir** went to the ER to help Miss Wilson to relax through the process. Without specifying her many challenges, we ask that you remember her in your prayers.

On Thursday, **Kate Vincent** began experiencing some vertigo (probably from dehydration while working in the heat to prepare for her upcoming move). She is happy to announce that it looks like she will be able to soon move into a place here in Big Sandy. She appreciates the members of the congregation who helped her to move out of her current place, and she appreciates the neighbor friend who invited her to stay in her home until her new place is available.

In the Feb. 11 bulletin, we mentioned that **Karen Ricard** of Big Sandy was diagnosed with an aggressive type of lung cancer. She died on July 19. Please remember her husband, **Kerry**, and the rest of the family in your prayers.

“Bearing Fruit—Part 3”

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 July 22, 2023.

By Dave Havir

BIG SANDY, Texas—At our Bible study on Wednesday night, I concluded a three-part series about “Bearing Fruit.” (This was a follow-up to the series about the parable of the sower.)

The first study discussed scriptures by Paul (Romans 5:1-5), the second study discussed scriptures by James (James 3:13-18), and this study discussed scriptures by Peter.

Let’s look at the third presentation.

For this very reason

The beginning of 2 Peter 1:5 says: “For this very reason [do the following].”

What reason?

■ 2 Peter 1:2—Grace and peace be multiplied in the knowledge of the Father and the Son.

■ 2 Peter 1:3—Divine power has been given.

■ 2 Peter 1:4—We can escape corruption of the flesh because we are partakers of divine nature.

Eight characteristics

■ 2 Peter 1:5-7—Peter then instructs friends to diligently grow—listing eight characteristics that build upon each other.

I will paraphrase the eight characteristics with wording from the Amplified New Testament.

It begins with faith.

Exercise faith to develop virtue (excellence, resolution and Christian energy).

Exercise virtue to develop knowledge (intelligence).

Exercise knowledge to develop self-control.

Exercise self-control to develop steadfastness (patience, endurance).

Exercise steadfastness to develop godliness (piety).

Exercise godliness to develop brotherly affection.

Exercise brotherly affection to develop Christian love.

Positive consequence

Notice the positive consequence growing in the eight characteristics.

2 Peter 1:8—“For if these things are yours and abound, you will be neither barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Negative consequence

Notice the negative consequence of ignoring the eight characteristics.

2 Peter 1:9—“For he who lacks these things is shortsighted, even to blindness, and has forgotten that he was cleansed from his old sins.”

Never stumble

Remember the benefit of diligence.

2 Peter 1:10—“Therefore, brethren, be even more diligent to make your calling and election sure, for if you do these things you will never stumble.”

Everlasting kingdom

Remember the destination.

2 Peter 1:11—“An entrance will be supplied to you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.”

Two thoughts with twists

“Drinking 42 cups of coffee at one sitting will kill you with a caffeine overdose. So please stop at 41.”

“The starting pay is \$40,000, and later it can go up to \$80,000.”
The man replied: “Great. I’ll start later.”