

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Church of God Big Sandy

ChurchofGodBigSandy.com

Feb. 24, 2024 • 1:00 p.m. • Sunset 6:12

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 Jeremiah 7:1–16

Sermon Terry McAdams

Quick takes

1. Welcome to traveling speaker—The congregation welcomes Terry McAdams for coming to serve at our congregation today.

2. Upcoming traveling speakers—The congregation is pleased that many traveling speakers work it into their schedule to visit us. Here is the tentative schedule.

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| ■ Today | Terry McAdams |
| ■ March 16 | Scott Hoefker |
| ■ March 23 | Wynn Skelton |
| ■ April 13 | Wynn Skelton |
| ■ May 4 | Ken Tate |

3. Wednesday-night Bible study—Feb. 28 at 7:00.

4. Community event on Feb. 29—The Big Sandy Chamber of Commerce has asked to use our building for its annual dinner on the evening of Thursday, Feb. 29. The Chamber has had the event in our building through the years in January, but this year it scheduled the event at the end of February.

5. Invitation to the widows—Dave Havir is planning for the church to buy a table at the Big Sandy Chamber of Commerce dinner on Feb. 29. He would love for any widows to attend and to enjoy the evening at that table.
6. Please remember to pray for the following people who are not able to regularly attend our church service.

■ Mickey Ashcraft	■ Ruth Roe
■ Judy Biggs	■ Ron Shirley
■ Becky Bonilla	■ Elaine Townsend
■ Angela Dunnam	■ Mickey Voyce
■ Timberly Dunnam	■ Donna Weese
■ Annette Payne	
7. Edifying the Body—This week's article is "A Morally Confused World" by Dennis Prager.
8. Among Friends—This week's article is "Philippians 4:13—Part 3" by Dave Havir.
9. Eye on the World—290 headlines and two articles.

Prayer updates

Mark Searer continued to make progress and went home from the hospital on Wednesday. The family thanks you for your prayers.

Benny West sent the following message to our congregation: "Thank you for your prayers. My surgery went well, and all is on the mend without any complications. I am certain that the prayers of all have helped me."

Gavin Forrestier had successful surgery on Friday. For background information, here is an excerpt of a description of the surgery that **Clay** gave on Dec. 19: "He will have two surgeons for the tumor and one surgeon for the facial nerves. They will also be making an incision near his belly button to remove fat and to graft into the crevice left from the tumor removal." Following is an excerpt after the surgery on Friday afternoon: "The surgery didn't take as long as expected. The tumor was not embedded in facial nerves, which made the procedure a lot less complicated. They did not have to do a fat graft. The indentation is minimal, and he should grow out of it in time. He is in recovery, and the surgeon said he did great. We are waiting to see him now."

New prayer requests

Wanda Klepfer (87-year-old mother of **Brenda Kennebeck**) is anticipating to have double-bypass surgery this coming week. The doctor is currently checking his schedule. (Mrs. Klepfer and the family are pointing toward a recovery that will allow her to attend the spring wedding of **Zachary Kennebeck** and **Charis Williams** in our building.)

Andrew and **Anna McIver** are pleased to announce that they are expecting their second child. The expecting parents, grandparents and the rest of the family appreciate your prayers.

Lisa Smith requests prayers for her 14-month-old granddaughter (**Nova-Leigh Ann Smith**), who has been diagnosed with covid.

On Thursday, **Lois Hirschler** of Missouri went to a doctor to deal with some “brain fog” associated with neck and cranial pain. The doctor ordered a set of X-rays and a CT scan of Mrs. Hirschler’s neck and head. (Insurance will likely also approve an MRI of the same areas.)

Ron Crank of Kansas City, Mo., continues to deal with his long-term collapsed esophagus, a growth on one of his corneas and high liver enzymes (which will require a liver biopsy).

Tanya Caudill of Dallas (who has been dealing with problems with her esophagus) is having issues with her liver.

Sean Jackson of Randleman, N.C., has been diagnosed with cancer in his brain.

Daniel Porteous of Bonney Lake, Wash., has been diagnosed with cancer in his liver and lungs.

Bill Westerhaus of Cincinnati, Ohio, has been diagnosed with advanced liver cancer.

Synopsis of board meeting on Feb. 18

- Board members discussed and approved the following two items: (1) The job description of a building manager and (2) the policy issues involving the rental of our church building. (Although we are not in the full-time business of renting our facility, we are happy that our beautiful building can sometimes be used to serve the congregation and the community.)

Scriptures to consider

Proverbs 6:6-19—“These six things the LORD hates, Yes, seven are an abomination to Him . . .”

- A proud look
- A lying tongue
- Hands that shed innocent blood
- A heart that devises wicked plans
- Feet that are swift in running to evil
- A false witness who speaks lies
- One who sows discord among brethren

“Philippians 4:13—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 Feb. 24, 2024.

By Dave Havar

BIG SANDY, Texas—At our Bible study on Wednesday night, I continued with a series about Philippians 4:13. This was part 3.

Philippians 4:13—“I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.”

Reasons for choosing

Why would a pastor give a Bible-study series about the words found in Philippians 4:13?

Here are four of my thoughts.

■ I believe that a merciful Heavenly Father readily answers prayers.

■ But I do not believe in the “name it, claim it” approach—where people can push God to do what they want Him to do and cause Him to submit to them.

■ Our loving Father gives us so much—every need and many of our wants.

■ One of the greatest gifts a dad gives to his children is a can-do, positive attitude, and the perfect Heavenly Father does the same—He helps us to succeed in times of adversity.

Every need and some desires

In a recent study, I discussed two approaches of our Heavenly Father.

1. I believe that God (as a perfect Father) will supply our personal needs—because He is trustworthy and because He loves us.

2. I believe that God will often give us the desires of our heart—because He loves us.

Sometimes says “no”

In last Wednesday’s study, I mentioned a third approach of our Heavenly Father.

3. I believe that God sometimes says “no” to our requests (often the desires of our heart)—because He loves us.

I organized this third concept in three specific points.

God is not controlled by prayer

Let me show you some scriptures that

confirm that God is not controlled by the prayers of His children.

■ Jeremiah 7:16—The Lord told the people not to pray for this particular group of people—saying that, if they made intercession to Him, He would not hear their prayer for those people.

■ Jeremiah 11:14—The Lord told the people not to pray for this particular group of people.

■ Jeremiah 14:11-12—The Lord told the people not to pray for good things for this particular group of people—saying that He would not accept their fast.

■ Exodus 4:21-23—The Lord told Moses that He was going to harden Pharaoh’s heart—revealing that He sometimes micromanages a situation (and may not be influenced by prayer requests).

■ Romans 9:18—The apostle Paul mentioned the Exodus history to show that sometimes God micromanages a situation (and may not be influenced by prayer requests).

■ Revelation 6:11—The book of Revelation shows that some events are preordained (and may not be influenced by prayer requests).

God doesn’t give foolish things

■ James 4:2—Some people don’t receive answers because they don’t ask.

■ James 4:3—Some people don’t receive answers because they ask amiss.

God teaches lessons

■ Deuteronomy 3:23-27—The Lord told Moses “no”—because of Moses’ behavior (whether a sin or merely a mistake).

■ 2 Samuel 12:15-23—The Lord told David “no”—because of David’s sin (even though David was fasting when he made his request).

■ 2 Corinthians 12:7-9—The Lord told Paul “no”—because He was going to show His strength through Paul’s humanity.