

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Church of God Big Sandy

ChurchofGodBigSandy.com

Aug. 11, 2018 • 2:00 p.m. • Sunset 8:09

Bible studies and classes

Interactive study (1:00) Kelly McDonald

Bible study (2:00) Kelly McDonald

Teen class Postponed to hear Mr. McDonald

Order of service

Song leader Neil McIver

Pianist Dixon Cartwright

Scripture reading Acts 7:47-60

Sermon Kelly McDonald

Quick takes

1. Welcome to guest speaker—The congregation welcomes Kelly McDonald, who enjoys giving presentations about the history of the seventh-day Sabbath and who is scheduled to give three presentations today.
 - 1:00—"The Real Constantine"
 - 2:00—"Seven Factors That Influenced the Sabbath in Early Christianity"
 - 3:15—"The Sabbath in Early Christianity"
2. Potluck meal today—There is a potluck meal scheduled shortly after the church service today.
3. Update about fiber-optic line—As we mentioned last Saturday, the fiber-optic line was laid up to the building on Friday (Aug. 3) and was scheduled to be installed in the building last Monday. The installation was complete on Monday morning. Shortly after 9:00 a.m. on Monday, Neil McIver and Andrew McIver performed a live feed on our website as a test. Both men were pleased with the connection.
4. Comments about live streaming—Neil McIver invites comments about how well you are receiving the church service on our website today. His phone number is (903) 714-8800.

5. Edifying the Body—This week's article is "Pope Francis Rewrites Catholicism About Death Penalty" by Dennis Prager.
6. Among Friends—The week's article is "Matthew 5:3" by Dave Havir.
7. Eye on the World—This week's "Eye on the World" is 22 pages.

Prayer updates

Elaine Holloway reports that she is slowly getting accustomed to the controls on her new chair (designed to help her to better raise her legs when she sits).

Marilyn Boston reports that she is feeling better and that she appreciates your continued prayers.

Please remember **Sonny Rosenberger**, who is dealing with health challenges.

Gracie Feaker, who was prescribed with 30 days of additional physical therapy at Legend Oaks Nursing Home in Gladewater, is about halfway through the original allotted time. She is in Room 312.

Ron Feaker is feeling fairly well, but he sometimes has difficulty sleeping.

In last week's bulletin, we mentioned that **Ron Avey** was scheduled for heart surgery (to replace a heart valve and to perform a double bypass) this past Monday. The procedures went well. Mr. Avey reported that his recovery was going well. On Thursday, he experienced a setback (when he experienced a loss of blood as the hospital personnel removed the chest tube). **Linda** reported that the departure from the hospital may be delayed until Sunday.

In last week's bulletin, we mentioned that **Martha McIver** had a recent CT scan and a bladder procedure (called a macrocystique). The CT scan confirmed that Mrs. McIver had a small blood clot that the doctor was able to treat with medication. Mrs. McIver reports that the bladder procedure was successful. (On another front, she was dealing with a UTI this past week.)

In last week's bulletin, we mentioned that **Laura Moran** was dealing with viral bronchitis. She reports that she is feeling better.

Betty Foster reports that she is dealing with a UTI.

In last week's bulletin, we mentioned that **Larry Foster** (son of **Betty Foster**) went to Longview to visit the doctor who treated him in Dallas to discuss the stem-cell treatment that is likely to occur in Dallas in the future. On Friday, brother **Morris** and Mrs. Foster took Larry back to Longview for another consultation with the same doctor.

Jeanine Case requests prayers for hormonal balance.

Sharon Edelbach of Kellogg, Minn. (mother of **Jeanine Case**), expresses her appreciation as she is recovering well from her heart-valve-replacement surgery. She also requests prayers to relieve ongoing severe neck pain.

In last week's bulletin, we mentioned that **Daniel Botha** recently visited an orthopedist who drained about half a pint of blood from his right knee—the result of internal bleeding. Mr. Botha reports that he was able to begin walking around the house again this past Wednesday. He mentioned that he is looking forward to getting back to our congregation in the near future and that **Helen** is willing to drive if need be.

Please remember **Jennifer Faulkner** of St. Louis, Mo. (wife of **Jim Faulkner** and sister-in-law of **Carol Bald**), who has been battling cancer for the last two years and who recently started a very aggressive treatment. Their mailing address is on the bulletin board.

In the July 28 bulletin, we mentioned that **Chuck Ragland** (father of **Diana Havir**) was anticipating surgery to deal with a “repatch” of a leak in his intestines (that the doctor called a fistula). The surgery occurred on Wednesday. Here are excerpts from a report by Mr. Ragland's wife, **Janet**, on Wednesday: “The fistula is a hole smaller than a little fingernail. The doctor gave it a 50-50 chance of success. Any coughing or pressure could cause it to start leaking again.” Here are excerpts from a report by Mrs. Ragland on Thursday: “Chuck's surgery didn't take, and the wound is leaking again. Don't know the next step.” Mr. Ragland remains in the long-term-care section of Mother Frances Hospital.

New prayer requests

Eli Benedict is dealing with a return of a rash on his body and some draining from his leg.

On Wednesday, **Charity Stith** of White Oak (daughter of **Stan** and **Roxanna West**) was experiencing difficulty in breathing and went to Hospitality ER in Longview. Her breathing became normal and she went home. Mrs. Stith has been dealing with much stress after the death of her father-in-law, **Ernie Stith** (which we reported in the Dec. 30, 2017, bulletin), and her increased involvement in the family business.

Terry Watson of Leavenworth, Kan., who is dealing with headaches and near blindness in her left eye, was diagnosed with a mass in her left parietal lobe (brain).

Charles Wallace of Laguna Niguel, Calif., has been diagnosed with an aggressive type of cancer on his face.

Carol Wallauch of Corona, Calif., who recently finished an 18-week round of chemo, had a PET scan that revealed malignant cells on additional lymph nodes.

Barb Cloud of Cape Girardeau, Mo., was diagnosed with a gangrenous foot, and a doctor removed her leg just below the knee.

Paul Williams of Greenville, S.C., is recovering from back surgery.

Kevin Kolb of Houston recently had open-heart surgery.

Diane Rosenthal of Saratoga Springs, N.Y. (sister of **Dennis Diehl**), died on Aug. 1. Please remember the family in your prayers.

"Matthew 5:3"

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 Aug. 11, 2018.

By Dave Havir

BIG SANDY, Texas—Many Bible students enjoy reading scriptures from the section that is generally called the Sermon on the Mount (chapters 5 through 7 in the book of Matthew).

When Christ saw the multitude, He went up on a mountain (Matthew 5:1). When He was seated, His disciples came to Him (same verse). Then, He began to teach them (verse 2). Today, let's look at Matthew 5:3.

Matthew 5:3—"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."

Poor in spirit

What does it mean to be "poor in spirit"? Let's notice how a few other translations describe the phrase.

- Emphasized New Testament—"destitute in spirit"

- James Moffatt Translation—"who feel poor in spirit"

- New English Bible—"who know that they are poor"

- Berkeley Version of the New Testament—"who sense spiritual poverty"

- New Testament in Modern English—"how happy are the humble-minded"

Let's notice some other verses in the Bible that describe the characteristic.

Isaiah 66:1-2—"Thus says the LORD: 'Heaven is My throne, and earth is My footstool. Where is the house that you will build Me? And where is the place of My rest? For all those things My hand has made, and all those things exist,'" says the LORD. 'But on this one will I look: On him who is poor and of a contrite spirit, and who trembles at My word.'"

Matthew 18:3-4—"Assuredly, I say to you, unless you are converted and become as little children, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven. Therefore whoever humbles himself as this little child is the

greatest in the kingdom of heaven."

Philippians 2:2-4—"Fulfill my joy by being like-minded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind. Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others."

Kingdom of heaven

It is interesting to note how the Gospel of Matthew often refers to the Kingdom as the kingdom of "heaven" while the other three Gospel writers generally refer to it as the kingdom of "God."

Here is an unofficial breakdown of how Matthew described the Kingdom.

- Kingdom of Father—2 times

- Kingdom of God—6 times

- Kingdom—10 times

- Kingdom of heaven—30 times

In a particular discussion, Christ referred to the Kingdom as both of heaven and of God.

Matthew 19:23-24—"Then Jesus said to His disciples, 'Assuredly, I say to you that it is hard for a rich man to enter the kingdom of heaven. And again I say to you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God.'"

In an epistle from the apostle Peter found later in the Bible, he wrote about the Kingdom being reserved in heaven for the elect.

1 Peter 1:3-5—"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, who are kept by the power of God through faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time."