

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Church of God Big Sandy

ChurchofGodBigSandy.com

Sept. 19, 2018 • 2:00 p.m. • Sunset 7:20

Welcome to our guests

Members of the Church of God Big Sandy welcome all guests as we worship on the Day of Atonement today. Here is the schedule for today.

- 2:00 Bible study—Neil Mclver
Teen class—Martha Mclver
- 3:00 Church service

Order of service

Song leader	Daniel Botha
Pianist	Dixon Cartwright
Offertory	Piano solo
Scripture reading	Hebrews 9:1-8
Sermon	Dave Havir

Quick takes

1. Feast church service on the website—This is to remind people that a daily church service is scheduled to be transmitted on our website from Monday, Sept. 24, through Monday, Oct. 1. The service will originate from our Feast site in Destin, Fla., and will begin at 10:30 a.m. (central time) for the first seven days. On the eighth day, the service will begin at 11:00 a.m. (central time).
2. Opening-night hospitality on Sunday, Sept. 23—There is an opening-night meeting for fellowship on Sunday, Sept. 23, from 6:00 to 8:00. While there will be no church service that evening, everyone is invited to the building for fellowship. (The recommended dress is “nice casual”).

Myrtle Beach Feast site

Dave Havir has been in regular discussions with Lyle and Kathy Kerby (Feast coordinators for Myrtle Beach).

- The Kerbys and other members of the leadership team for the site wanted to continue with the site—knowing that any individuals can decide to switch sites if they are uncomfortable with the weather conditions.
- At this time, the scheduled speakers expressed their intention to travel to the Feast site. Mr. Havir assured the speakers that he would support any decision on their part if the weather influenced them to change Feast sites.
- Following are excerpts of a text from one of our attendees who initially expressed some hesitancy because of some factual challenges about driving through North Carolina to Myrtle Beach: “I think we are going to be okay. The worst case is there will be longer routes than normal. Some may drive further south and then come back northeast into Myrtle. I think most are allowing extra time to travel.”
- The Intercontinental Church of God has consistently announced that it is also continuing with its Feast plans in Myrtle Beach.
- On Tuesday, the Church of God International sent a message officially canceling its site in Myrtle Beach.

Prayer updates

Although **Elaine Holloway** reports that she still has swelling in her legs, she also reports that she has been experiencing many good days.

Marilyn Boston reports that her therapy is going well. She is scheduled for another 10 days at the rehab facility before her condition is reevaluated.

Della Worden reports two pieces of news. First, she learned that her insurance has agreed to pay for some of the treatments for which the insurance company had previously been uncertain. Second, she is scheduled for a battery of tests and evaluation at M.D. Anderson in Houston on Oct. 2-4.

On Tuesday, **Dixon Cartwright** went to one of his doctors (a neurologist). The doctor said Mr. Cartwright is recovering well, and he officially gave him permission to drive his vehicles. Mr. Cartwright’s ETMC cardiologist has approved cardio therapy, which is set to begin this Friday.

New prayer requests

Last Saturday after the church service, friends of **Vonda Ouellette** informed **Dave Havir** that Mrs. Ouellette was having difficulty with her speech. Mr. Havir anointed her for an apparent stroke and then friends called for an ambulance to take her to receive treatment. She was admitted into Mother Frances Hospital. On Monday, she was moved to HealthSouth Rehab Hospital of Tyler (3131 Troup Hwy.). (This facility typically encourages visitors after 4:00 p.m.) She is in Room 112.

On Monday night, **Laura Moran** experienced severe pain (that caused her to wonder if she was having a heart attack).

Amanda Andrews of Tulsa, Okla., was diagnosed with a ministroke.

“Fasting on Day of Atonement”

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 Oct. 8, 2016.

By Dave Havir

BIG SANDY, Texas—As we enter the autumn of the year in the northern hemisphere, saints around the world will be celebrating the meaning of the biblical Day of Atonement. The Day of Atonement is among the annual feast days listed in Leviticus 23.

While saints appreciate the concise listing of these days in Leviticus 23, they are quick to mention to observers that they are not under the sacrificial system of the Old Testament. Therefore, saints do not participate in the various offerings and sacrifices outlined for that particular chapter.

It is a fair question to ask: “Do New Testament saints choose to fast (afflict their soul) from evening to evening on the Day of Atonement?”

My response: Yes, most of the people in my network of religious people choose to make the Day of Atonement one of their days of fasting.

My friends certainly realize that they are not dealing with (1) a physical tabernacle or temple, (2) a physical priesthood or (3) a physical sacrifice as mentioned in Leviticus 16:1-34. But they recognize how the New Testament supports the importance of fasting.

Basics of fasting

At this time, I would like to answer various questions about fasting.

■ Are there many examples of fasting in the Old Testament?

My answer: Many Bible students are surprised that there are not as many examples of fasting in the Old Testament as they might have imagined.

One of the most famous examples of fasting is found during the time of Esther dealing with the shenanigans of Haman. See Esther 4:15-16.

■ Does fasting always have to be without both food and water (as done in Esther 4:15-16)?

My answer: Not necessarily. There are many ways to fast. In our modern time, a valuable fast is to replace technology (television time, computer time, smart-phone time, etc.) with more time in prayer and Bible study.

■ Does fasting always have to be for a 24-hour period (as mentioned in Leviticus 23:32)?

My answer: Not at all. The time period is generally not the key. How is the dedicated time spent? Many people occasionally dedicate fasting time for longer than 24 hours.

■ Does fasting always have to be from evening to evening (as mentioned in Leviticus 23:32)?

My answer: Not at all. Many people adjust the starting and stopping times of their fasting.

What did Christ say?

Have you ever noticed what Jesus Christ said about fasting in the New Testament?

■ Matthew 4:1-11—He fasted for 40 days when preparing to face the temptations of the devil.

■ Matthew 6:16-18—He mentioned that fasting should be a private matter with God, rather than a public display in an effort to impress other people.

■ Matthew 9:14-17—He mentioned that His disciples would not fast while He walked the earth with them.

■ Luke 18:9-14—He gave a parable showing that fasting can be a ritual that deceives people into thinking they are righteous.

Valuable lesson

One of the best lessons about fasting can be found in the Old Testament book of Isaiah. Please take the time to read the contrast.

■ Isaiah 58:3-5—qualities of an unproductive fast

■ Isaiah 58:6-7—qualities of a productive fast

Scriptures for the season

Exodus 30:10—“And Aaron shall make atonement upon its horns once a year with the blood of the sin offering of atonement; once a year he shall make atonement upon it throughout your generations. It is most holy to the LORD.”

Leviticus 16:32-34—“And the priest, who is anointed and consecrated to minister as priest in his father’s place, shall make atonement, and put on the linen clothes, the holy garments; then he shall make atonement for the Holy Sanctuary, and he shall make atonement for the tabernacle of meeting and for the altar, and he shall make atonement for the priests and for all the people of the assembly. This shall be an everlasting statute for you, to make atonement for the children of Israel, for all their sins, once a year.” And he did as the LORD commanded Moses.

Hebrews 7:23-28—Also there were many priests, because they were prevented by death from continuing. But He, because He continues forever, has an unchangeable priesthood. Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them. For such a High Priest was fitting for us, who is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and has become higher than the heavens; who does not need daily, as those high priests, to offer up sacrifices, first for His own sins and then for the people’s, for this He did once for all when He offered up Himself. For the law appoints as high priests men who have weakness, but the word of the oath, which came after the law, appoints the Son who has been perfected forever.

Hebrews 9:7—But into the second part the high priest went alone once a year, not without blood, which he offered for himself and for the people’s sins committed in ignorance.

Hebrews 9:24-28—For Christ has not entered the holy places made with hands, which are copies of the true, but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us; not that He should offer Himself often, as the high priest enters the Most Holy Place every year with blood of another—He then would have had to suffer often since the foundation of the world; but now, once at the end of the ages, He has appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself. And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment, so Christ was offered once to bear the sins of many. To those who eagerly wait for Him He will appear a second time, apart from sin, for salvation.

James 4:7-8—Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded.

1 Peter 5:6-10—Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time, casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you. Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. Resist him, steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same sufferings are experienced by your brotherhood in the world. But may the God of all grace, who called us to His eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after you have suffered a while, perfect, establish, strengthen, and settle you.