

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## Church of God Big Sandy

ChurchofGodBigSandy.com

March 9, 2019 • 2:00 p.m. • Sunset 6:22

### Bible studies and classes

Interactive study (1:00) . . . . . Bruce Graham

Bible study (2:00) . . . . . Daniel Botha

Teen class . . . . . Neil McIver

### Order of service

Song leader . . . . . Ron Avey

Pianist . . . . . Dixon Cartwright

Scripture reading . . . . . Acts 18:18-28

Sermon . . . . . Daniel Botha

### Quick takes

1. Thank you—Dave Havir wanted to publicly express his appreciation to the individuals who served in his normal responsibility at the community event (a barbecue dinner sponsored by the Big Sandy Museum Association) in our building last Monday. (Mr. Havir was helping the family as his father-in-law, Virgil Page, was approaching death—which ultimately occurred on Tuesday night.)
2. Daylight-saving time—This is a reminder that daylight-saving time begins tomorrow morning.
3. Memorial service on March 24—Elaine Townsend and family have scheduled a “Celebration of Life” for Ves Townsend in our building on Sunday, March 24, at 2:00 p.m. A meal will follow.
4. Edifying the Body—This week’s article is “Substance and Evidence” by Lenny Cacchio.
5. Among Friends—This week’s article is “Meditate on Whatever Is a Virtue” by Dave Havir.
6. Eye on the World—This week’s “Eye on the World” is 18 pages.

## Prayer updates

As was announced orally last Saturday, **Eli Benedict** went by ambulance on that afternoon to the Good Shepherd Medical Center in Longview due to swelling in his left leg. He was diagnosed with cellulitis. The doctors did an ultrasound, which ruled out blood clots. He was about to return home on Tuesday. **Jean** reports that he has been getting around the house well using his walker. Now we will see if this recent incident affects Mr. Benedict's appointment on March 20 for a CAT scan and a cystoscopy (for the bladder).

In last week's bulletin, we mentioned that **Sonny Rosenberger** was scheduled last Tuesday for a procedure called a UroLift (a treatment to help men with prostate challenges). We also mentioned that Mr. Rosenberger has had his patience tested because this procedure had been scheduled and postponed several times (beginning last August). It happened again. The procedure was postponed until March 19.

On Wednesday, **Betty Foster** (who continues to rehab at Legend Oaks Nursing Home in Gladewater) went to the orthopedic doctor, who removed the brace. After she spends some time getting around without the brace, she expects to go home. However, she reported that a pain (unrelated to the removal of the brace) has slowed her progress. She is in Room 307.

**Ron Feaker** continues to rehab at the home of caregiving daughter **Karen**.

**Elaine Holloway** continues to rehab at Legend Oaks Nursing Home in Gladewater. She is in Room 109.

**Marilyn Boston** continues to rehab at Park Place Rehabilitation Center in Tyler (2450 E. Fifth St.). She is in Room 218.

Following are excerpts from **Jeff Ledy** of Michigan on March 4 about his son **Eric Ledy** of Austin: "I'm writing from Austin. I flew down Saturday [March 2] to join [wife] **Sharon** and **Eric**. The past two months have been a roller coaster of emotions for all of us. Wednesday night [Feb. 27] we got the results from a CT scan they did here in Austin of his chest and abdomen. The results were devastating to us. Eric has multiple new cancer nodules throughout his chest the size of marbles, a tumor larger than an egg in his left lung, and a three-inch by two and one-half inch rapidly growing tumor on his left shoulder blade. It is now visible in its location and size. It is also starting to cause him pain in his shoulders and neck. As a result of this change in condition, Eric has decided to undergo chemotherapy. It is still hard to comprehend how ill he is on the inside because he acts and looks healthy on the outside. Eric is in remarkably good spirits now that we have had a couple of days to accept the results of the recent CT scan. We are hopeful and prayerful, and thank you for being there assisting us along the way."

In last week's bulletin, we mentioned that **Chuck Ragland** (father of **Diana Havir**) was transported to Baylor Hospital in Dallas, where a colorectal specialist was examining his condition. (The family wanted to exhaust curative options before accepting comfort alternatives.) The medical team there is considering some possibilities of treatment.

**Tim Lindholm** of Minneapolis, Minn., has been experiencing increased pain due to his cancer. Please remember him, **Hope** and the children as they go through this trial together.

## New prayer requests

This past Thursday, **Jane Cochran** of Tulsa, Okla., was scheduled for lower-back surgery to treat spinal stenosis.

**Mona Wax** of McCune, Kan., was diagnosed with blockages on both sides of her brain.

**Doug Morey** of Tyler was diagnosed with cancer of the brain.

**Gayle Wilkins** of Birmingham, Ala., is recovering in a rehab facility after recent back surgery.

**Douglas Feazell** of Simi Valley, Calif. (father of **Steve Feazell**), died on Feb. 20. (A memorial service is scheduled today in California. Mr. Feazell is looking forward to attending with our congregation again next week.) Please remember his wife, **Patrice**, and the rest of the family in your prayers.

**Alice Thomas** of Richboro, Pa., died on March 4. Please remember the family in your prayers.

**Tom Taylor** of Pasadena, Calif., died on March 5. Please remember his wife, **Carol**, and the family in your prayers.

**Virgil Page** (93-year-old father of **Pam Havar** and **Carolyn Ellefson**) died on March 5. The Pages moved to East Texas in August of 2017 to be closer to Mrs. Havar. (A funeral is scheduled tomorrow in Lamesa.) Please remember his wife of 69 years, **Opal**, and the rest of the family in your prayers.

**Alfred Riehle** of Münsingen, Germany, died on March 6. Please remember his wife, **Renate**, and the rest of the family in your prayers.

## Scriptures to consider

**1 Corinthians 10:13**—“No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it.”

**2 Corinthians 12:8-10**—“Concerning this thing I pleaded with the Lord three times that it might depart from me. And He said to me, ‘My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness.’ Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in needs, in persecutions, in distresses, for Christ’s sake. For when I am weak, then I am strong.”

**2 Corinthians 1:3**—“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort.”

## “Meditate on Whatever Is a Virtue”

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 March 9, 2019.

**By Dave Havir**

**B**IG SANDY, Texas—Here is one of the best pieces of advice that a mental-health professional can give to people: “Focus upon the positive factors of this life.” It should come as no surprise that this concept is found in the Bible.

One verse that promotes this approach is Philippians 4:8.

**Philippians 4:8**—“Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy—meditate on these things.”

We began a series to talk about the characteristics mentioned in this verse. Today, we will talk about things that are “a virtue.”

### Recognize negative

Before we look at this week’s characteristic, I want to remind you about a realistic approach in life—recognize negative, but dwell on positive.

■ Numbers 13:26-33—Although the other spies became preoccupied with the negative factors, Joshua and Caleb recognized the challenges and focused upon God’s promises.

■ Luke 14:26-33—The Son of God’s instruction to count the cost includes recognizing the challenges and focusing upon God’s promises.

### Greek word in Philippians 4:8

Let’s notice the Greek word used in Philippians 4:8.

■ *Arete* (No. 703 in *Strong’s Concordance*) is the Greek adjective in Philippians 4:8 translated as “virtue.” It is used four other times in the New Testament.

**1 Peter 2:9**—“But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may pro-

claim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light.”

**2 Peter 1:3**—“As His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue.”

**2 Peter 1:5**—“But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge.”

### Other translations

Here are a few other examples about how *arete* is translated in other Bible translations.

■ The New Testament in Modern Speech (Richard Francis Weymouth)—“if there is any virtue”

■ The Berkeley Version of the New Testament—“whatever is lofty”

■ Revised Standard Version—“if there is any excellence”

■ New American Standard Bible—“if there is any excellence”

■ James Moffatt Translation—“all excellence”

### Any excellence

Although the word *arete* is not used in the following verses, let’s notice a few scriptures about the concept of excellence.

**1 Corinthians 12:31**—“But earnestly desire the best gifts. And yet I show you a more excellent way.”

**Philippians 1:10**—“That you may approve the things that are excellent, that you may be sincere and without offense till the day of Christ.”

**Hebrews 1:4**—“Having become so much better than the angels, as He has by inheritance obtained a more excellent name than they.”

**Hebrews 8:6**—“But now He has obtained a more excellent ministry, inasmuch as He is also Mediator of a better covenant, which was established on better promises.”