

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Church of God Big Sandy

ChurchofGodBigSandy.com

Aug. 24, 2019 • 1:00 p.m. • Sunset 7:55

Bible studies and classes

Interactive study (1:00)	.....	Dave Havir
Bible study (2:00)	.....	Daniel Botha
Teen class	.....	Neil McIver

Order of service—3:00 p.m.

Song leader	.....	Daniel Botha
Pianist	.....	Dixon Cartwright
Scripture reading	.....	Hebrews 3:1–19
Sermon	.....	Dave Havir

Quick takes

1. Expressing their appreciation—Eli and Jean Benedict thank the congregation for the kindnesses shown to them as Mr. Benedict approached his 97th birthday. First, they reiterated their appreciation for the spontaneous use of the building on Father's Day weekend when many family members came to see them. (When Dave Havir saw the large number of people after the church service that weekend and wondered how all those people were going to comfortably fit into the Benedict home, he convinced them to use the church building that night.) Second, Mr. Benedict appreciated the desserts and kind words expressed to him last Saturday after the church service.
2. Thank you—The congregation thanks Andrew McIver for replacing the bulb for the projector this week.
3. Reminder about Feast housing—Please make your Feast housing at Destin and Myrtle Beach soon so that you will be able to receive the discounted price before the rooms are released from our room block. (We do not have any discounted room blocks in Big Sandy or Grand Junction.)

4. Pastor's Feast schedule—Recently, Dave Havir finalized his travel schedule (and purchased his airline tickets) for the Feast of Tabernacles in October.
 - Saturday before the Feast (10/12)—Speak in Grand Junction, Colo.
 - Monday, 10/14—Speak in Grand Junction
 - Tuesday, 10/15—Speak in Big Sandy
 - Wednesday, Thursday, 10/16–17—Speak in Myrtle Beach, S.C.
 - Friday through Monday, 10/18-21—Speak in Destin, Fla.
5. Hosting Thanksgiving community church service and meal—After talking with board members, Dave Havir contacted Jerome Ellard of the Big Sandy Ministerial Alliance about offering our church building for the Thanksgiving Community Church Service and Meal on Sunday, Nov. 24, at 5:00 p.m. The ministerial alliance accepted our offer to use the building.
6. What happens at the community church service?—Each congregation in the town of Big Sandy is given a short time slot to say positive words or to perform beautiful music. For many years, members of our congregation have attended the service. Two years ago, Dave Havir attended the service for the first time and participated in a time slot—by saying a few words and playing a video of two Chinese preteens (Celine Tam and Jeffrey Li) singing “You Raise Me Up.” Last year, Mr. Havir attended the service and asked Shirley West to use our time slot to talk about how her mother rejected the recommendation to abort her. (Mr. Havir felt that Mrs. West’s presentation was the most effective presentation of the evening.)
7. Interactive study this week—The topic of the Interactive Bible study today is scheduled to be “Let the Dead Bury Their Own Dead” (Luke 9:60) moderated by Dave Havir.
8. Interactive study next week—The topic of the Interactive Bible study next week (Aug. 31) is scheduled to be “The First Commandment.”
9. Edifying the Body—This week’s article is “Green New Deal Not Originally About Climate” by David Montgomery.
10. Among Friends—This week’s article is “Comments About Romans 12:18” by Dave Havir.
11. Eye on the World—This week’s “Eye on the World” is 16 pages.

Prayer updates

Sonny Rosenberger reports two pieces of news. First, he mentioned how he recently fell in his home. He appreciates your prayers for his overcoming the soreness and for his improved strength. Second, he mentioned how he is scheduled for prostate surgery this coming Wednesday. (You might recall that a doctor discussed surgery on numerous occasions—only to postpone the surgery as the date approached. At the time, we mentioned how frustrating this was for Mr. Rosenberger, his family and his friends.) Many months ago, Mr. Rosenberger switched to a different doctor. The newer doctor was also hesitant about surgery (considering Mr. Rosenberger turned 90 on May 29). However, the newer doctor has not kept raising Mr. Rosenberger’s hopes and then postponing the surgery. The newer doctor has now scheduled the surgery for this coming Wednesday. Thank you for your prayers.

While on a trip to Colorado, **Neil McIver** experienced some symptoms (tightness of his jaw and gasping for air). After returning back to Texas on Saturday night, he went to the ER on Monday. He was diagnosed with recently having blood clots in a lung. He reports that he felt well through the week.

Please remember **Willie Choate**, who has breathing difficulties. He is scheduled to visit a doctor in Tyler on Sept. 5 with the hope of receiving a stent instead of having open-heart surgery.

On Wednesday, **Laura Moran** went to the dentist. She was disappointed when the dentist told her that he could not fix her present challenge. She also reported that her diverticulitis acted up this week and caused her pain. This week, she is scheduled for a sleep study on Aug. 27.

Donna Weese reports that she has mostly good days. She appreciates your prayers.

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

Ron Feaker continues to rehab at Legend Oaks Nursing Home in Gladewater. He is in Room 412.

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

New prayer requests

Jake Dunnam has been dealing with severe kidney-stone pain this week. Here are excerpts from a report from his mother, **Angela Dunnam**: “When Jake was in an automobile accident months ago, the event lodged a 7-mm stone in his kidney. For months, he’s been on different regimens to break it up. He had a CT scan on Thursday morning. Our family thanks you for your prayers.”

Tony Coleman of Tulsa, Okla., has shown strokelike symptoms.

David Beaver of Blue Springs, Mo., has shown strokelike symptoms.

Scriptures to consider

Luke 9:57-58—“Now it happened as they journeyed on the road, that someone said to Him, ‘Lord, I will follow You wherever You go.’ And Jesus said to him, ‘Foxes have holes and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay His head.’”

Luke 9:59-60—“Then He said to another, ‘Follow Me.’ But he said, ‘Lord, let me first go and bury my father.’ Jesus said to him, ‘Let the dead bury their own dead, but you go and preach the kingdom of God.’”

Luke 9:61-62—“And another also said, ‘Lord, I will follow You, but let me first go and bid them farewell who are at my house.’ But Jesus said to him, ‘No one, having put his hand to the plow, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God.’”

“Comments About Romans 12:18”

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 Aug. 24, 2019.

By Dave Havir

BIG SANDY, Texas—Recently, I began a discussion about the words of the apostle Paul found in Romans 12. It is my perspective that Paul’s writings in chapters 1-11 could be classified more as comments about doctrine and spiritual concepts, whereas the words in chapter 12 can be viewed more as Christian-living topics.

Last week, we discussed Romans 12:17. This article will discuss Romans 12:18.

Positive words

Notice what Paul wrote in Romans 12:18. *Romans 12:18*—“If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men.”

Mixed message?

Bible students are aware that there are occasional subjects where there appears to be a contradiction within the pages of the Bible.

One such contrast concerns peace.

■ Luke 2:13-14—When an angel approached some shepherds about the birth of the Son of God, the heavenly host mentioned that the arrival of peace and goodwill had come.

■ Matthew 10:34-37—Christ said He did not come to bring peace on earth.

■ Matthew 21:44—Christ talked about the Stone that crushes.

The Son of God is often considered the greatest peacemaker to walk the face of the earth.

Question: Was the Son of God an instrument of peace or not?

My answer: Not for every minute within the plan of God.

Neither possible nor desired

The first four words in Romans 12:18 (“If it is possible”) remind us that perfect peace is not always possible.

We can look through the entire Bible and

find examples where peace was not always possible—or desired. Let’s notice two related events in the book of John.

John 5:8-10, 16—“Jesus said to him, ‘Rise, take up your bed and walk.’ And immediately the man was made well, took up his bed, and walked. And that day was the Sabbath. The Jews therefore said to him who was cured, ‘It is the Sabbath; it is not lawful for you to carry your bed’ . . . For this reason the Jews persecuted Jesus, and sought to kill Him, because He had done these things on the Sabbath.”

Jesus Christ was determined to reveal a behavior on the Sabbath day that His Father wanted the begotten children to imitate—knowing the response of the religious leaders. Remember that there are other examples in the Bible about the Son healing on the Sabbath day.

John 5:17-18—“But Jesus answered them, ‘My Father has been working until now, and I have been working.’ Therefore the Jews sought all the more to kill Him, because He not only broke the Sabbath, but also said that God was His Father, making Himself equal with God.”

Jesus Christ was determined to reveal His place as the Son of God—knowing the response of the religious leaders. Remember that He specifically mentioned the relationship between the Father and Son in the following verses of this chapter. John 5:19-23 and John 5:25-27.

What depends upon you

The next six words in Romans 12:18 (“As much as depends upon you”) do encourage disciples to pursue peace and to reflect peace—as much as possible.

Here are merely a few verses that discuss the concept of seeking to be a conduit of peace.

■ Matthew 5:9

■ Romans 14:19

■ 1 Corinthians 8:11-13

■ 1 Corinthians 10:32-33