

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Church of God Big Sandy

ChurchofGodBigSandy.com

May 16, 2020 • 2:00 p.m. • Sunset 8:10

Internet presentations

Here is the schedule of Internet presentations for today.

- 2:00 Bible study by Wynn Skelton
- 3:00 Church service with Dave Havir speaking

Order of service

- Song leader** Neil McIver
- Pianist** Dixon Cartwright
- Scripture reading** Acts 1:15–20
- Sermon** Dave Havir

Quick takes

1. Welcome to our guest speaker—The congregation welcomes Wynn Skelton as a guest speaker today. Mr. Skelton is scheduled to continue with part 2 of a Bible-study series that he began on April 25. (He is scheduled to give part 3 next Saturday.)
2. Upcoming guest speakers—The congregation is happy to announce that various guest speakers are scheduled to visit us. They include the following.
 - Today Wynn Skelton
 - May 23 Wynn Skelton
 - May 30 Ramon Coleman
 - May 31, Pentecost Ramon Coleman
 - June 6 Bill Crow
 - June 20 Scott Hoefker
3. Supporting your freedom of choice—We understand that some of you may choose to delay coming to the building for church at this time, and we certainly support your freedom of choice.
 - Consider if you are in the high-risk population
 - Consider how you are feeling

4. Reminders for attending—Here are some reminders for people who choose to attend the church service in the building.
 - We do not provide masks or gloves. If those are important to you, please bring your own.
 - We expect attendees to make good use of our spacious hall by spreading out.
5. Day of Pentecost on May 31—The congregation will be observing the Day of Pentecost on Sunday, May 31. As in past years, members of the Church of God International from Tyler and Shreveport will be worshipping with us. Following is the schedule.
 - 1:00—Bible study—Dave Havir speaking
 - 2:00—Church service—Ramon Coleman speaking
 - 3:00—Snacks (instead of a potluck meal)
6. Finger food on Pentecost—Due to the coronavirus, we will not be having a full-fledged potluck meal on the Day of Pentecost. Rather, we will have finger sandwiches individually wrapped or in baggies. Thank you.
7. Edifying the Body—This week's article is "The Nation's Report Card" by Walter Williams.
8. Among Friends—This week's article is "Father's Expectations—Psalm 15:1–5" by Dave Havir.
9. Eye on the World—This week's "Eye on the World" is 30 pages.

Prayer updates

Please remember to pray for the following people who live at home but are not able to regularly attend our church service—**Sonny Rosenberger, Laura Moran, Boyd Payne, Annette Payne, David Bonilla** and **Timberly Dunnam**.

Eli Benedict reports three bits of news. First, he enjoyed the church service last Saturday to hear his son speak, but he was tired on Sunday. Second, his was passing more blood this week. Third, the itching that he endured in previous weeks came back this week. He appreciates your prayers.

Elaine Holloway continues to rehab at Legend Oaks Nursing Home in Gladewater. She is presently in isolation. (See new prayer request.)

Ron Feaker continues to rehab at Legend Oaks Nursing Home in Gladewater. The facility has periodically been changing his room.

Boyd Payne continues to rehab at Legend Oaks Nursing Home in Gladewater.

On Monday, **Laura Moran** went to a doctor to have blood work and X rays on her back and foot. She has not yet heard the results of the blood work or the X rays. (She also reports that she renewed her nursing license this week.)

Ronnie Shirley visited two doctors this week. He is scheduled to have some blood work on Thursday. He is scheduled to see a doctor on June 1 with the expectation of hearing his plan for chemotherapy and radiation.

New prayer requests

Elaine Holloway had a rough week. First, she was diagnosed with pneumonia. She was placed in isolation in the nursing home. The first coronavirus test was negative. To get out of isolation, she apparently has to register negative twice. She is awaiting the results of the second test. Because she is in isolation, the staff won't take a phone to her. (Later, she was also diagnosed with a UTI.)

Last Saturday, **Alec Surratt** of Wichita Falls experienced strokelike symptoms. While in the hospital, he apparently suffered cardiac arrest. A report on Tuesday mentioned that Mr. Surratt had received a pacemaker and had been moved out of critical care into progressive care. We did not have a further update at the printing deadline of this bulletin.

Eye on the world

■ An article by Terence P. Jeffrey titled “Spending and Deficit Set All-Time Records; Feds Spend \$3.3 Trillion Through April While Running \$1.48 Trillion Deficit” was posted at [cnsnews.com](https://www.cnsnews.com) on May 13, 2020.

■ An article by Tristan Justice titled “Pandemic Panic Laid Off Nearly 3 Million Americans Last Week, 36 Million Within Two Months” was posted at [thefederalist.com](https://www.thefederalist.com) on May 14, 2020.

■ An article by Bridget Read titled “Breonna Taylor Was Shot and Killed by Police in Her Own Home [in Louisville, Ky., on March 13]” was posted at [thecut.com](https://www.thecut.com) on May 14, 2020.

Scriptures to consider

Matthew 20:16—“So the last will be first, and the first last. For many are called, but few chosen.”

Matthew 22:14—“For many are called, but few are chosen.”

Romans 16:13—“Greet Rufus, chosen in the Lord, and his mother and mine.”

Revelation 17:14—“These will make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb will overcome them, for He is Lord of lords and King of kings; and those who are with Him are called, chosen, and faithful.”

Word tickler

Some people would consider the following quote to be an oxymoron. But we like to call it a word tickler—“Doesn't it seem odd that the third hand on a watch is called the second hand?”

Father's Expectations—Psalm 15:1-5

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 May 16, 2020.

By Dave Havir

BIG SANDY, Texas—Recently, I have been talking to my friends about our Heavenly Father’s expectations for us—because He is a God of mercy.

On the first day of Unleavened Bread (Thursday, April 9), I gave a Bible study titled “What Are the Father’s Expectations?” The purpose of the presentation was twofold.

■ I wanted to remind friends that a God of grace has expectations for His children.

■ I wanted to remind friends that the Bible contains many, many examples of the Father’s expectations.

Let’s notice a few of those expectations by looking at Psalm 15:1-5.

Your tabernacle

Bible students are aware how God gave instructions in the book of Exodus for them to set up a tabernacle. Notice two purposes of the tabernacle at that time.

■ The tabernacle was the place where God talked to them.

Exodus 25:22—“And there I will meet with you, and I will speak with you from above the mercy seat, from between the two cherubim which are on the ark of the Testimony, about everything which I will give you in commandment to the children of Israel.”

Exodus 29:42-43—“This shall be a continual burnt offering throughout your generations at the door of the tabernacle of meeting before the LORD, where I will meet you to speak with you. And there I will meet with the children of Israel, and the tabernacle shall be sanctified by My glory.”

1 Corinthians 3:16—“Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?”

■ He wanted to dwell among His people.

Exodus 29:45—“I will dwell among the children of Israel and will be their God.”

Leviticus 26:11-12—“I will set My tabernacle among you, and My soul shall not abhor you. I will walk among you and be

your God, and you shall be My people.”

Revelation 21:1-3—“Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. Also there was no more sea. Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, ‘Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God.’”

Your holy hill

Bible students often discuss the location of God’s “holy hill.” Some mention that the location is Mount Zion. Others mention that the location is the Mount of Olives.

I believe that the biblical reference of “holy hill” is generally understood to refer to the location where God is. He is both on this physical earth and in the heavens.

Hebrews 12:22-23—“But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, to an innumerable company of angels, to the general assembly and church of the firstborn who are registered in heaven, to God the Judge of all, to the spirits of just men made perfect.

Desirable characteristics

Notice the characteristics that our Father wants us to have so that we can be in His presence.

- Walk uprightly and work righteousness
- Speaks the truth from the heart
- Do not backbite with the tongue
- Do not do evil to the neighbor
- Do not slander your neighbor
- Do not participate with a vile person
- Have respect for the Lord
- Keep your promise, even to your own detriment
- Do not take advantage of people by charging outrageous usury
- Do not take a bribe