

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Church of God Big Sandy

ChurchofGodBigSandy.com

July 18, 2020 • 1:00 p.m. • Sunset 8:26

Bible study and classes

Interactive study (1:00) Dixon Cartwright
Bible study (2:00) Wynn Skelton

Order of service—3:00 p.m.

Song leader Neil McIver
Pianist Dixon Cartwright
Scripture reading Psalm 34:1–22
Sermon Morris Foster

Quick takes

1. Thank you to our guest speakers—Although our speakers today (Wynn Skelton and Morris Foster) view themselves as extended parts of our congregation instead of guests, we appreciate them serving in the role as guest speakers today.
2. Prayers for peaceful protesters—Please pray for the citizens who are maturely and responsibly exercising their right of peaceful protest.
3. Prayers for the victims—Please pray for the citizens who are suffering from the criminals, mobs and thugs who are tormenting our country.
4. Supporting your freedom of choice—We understand that some of you may hesitate to come to the building for church at this time, and we certainly support your freedom of choice.
 - Please be comfortable with your decision.
 - Please consider the protective opinion of your family.
5. 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 these are important to you, please bring your own.
 - We expect attendees to make good use of our spacious hall by spreading out.

6. Pastor's expectation for the Feast—Dave Havir wrote: "Although there may be some size restrictions placed upon group meetings in October, I expect that the preferred smaller size of our Feast sites will fall within the anticipated limitations in Texas, Florida and South Carolina."
7. Feast housing in Destin and Myrtle Beach—If you are planning to attend the Feast of Tabernacles in Destin or Myrtle Beach, we recommend that you make your housing reservations as soon as possible. Although there is a lot of talk in the mainstream media about lockdowns and restrictions, reports from both areas note that other conventions occurring at the same time as the Feast of Tabernacles are filling up sleeping accommodations in those areas.
8. Edifying the Body—This week's article is "Despicable Behavior of My Fellow Academicians" by Walter Williams.
9. Among Friends—This week's article is "Psalm 31" by Dave Havir.
10. Eye on the World—This week's "Eye on the World" is 37 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, Annette Payne, Ronnie Shirley** and **Timberly Dunnam**.

Please remember to pray for the following people who are rehabbing at Legend Oaks Nursing Home in Gladewater—**Ron Feaker** and **Elaine Holloway**. (It has been reported that there are three cases of Covid-19 at the nursing home.)

Eli Benedict is still dealing with the following: (1) swelling and itching of his legs, (2) a blood pressure that is higher than he and Jean would like and (3) a lack of energy. Mr. Benedict appreciates your prayers. He asked that the bulletin include a reminder about prayers for his eyes.

Please remember **Sonny Rosenberger**, who regularly deals with some breathing challenges.

Please remember **Annette Payne** as she continues to recover from a procedure to deal with the diagnosis of her "brain bleed." Her children are helping in her recovery.

Ronnie Shirley, who recently finished his 28th radiation and chemo treatment, heard that his future doctor appointments are expected to be in the middle of August.

Laura Moran reports that she had a good week.

In the June 13 bulletin, we mentioned that **Lisa Smith** went to an ER after falling, learned about "some abnormal findings" on her left hip and was encouraged to see an oncologist in Dallas. In the course of time, Mrs. Smith visited the oncologist. On Wednesday, she reported the good news: "Tumor benign."

In last week's bulletin, we mentioned that **Dave McLearen** (son-in-law to **Vonda Ouellette**, who was baptized here and attends here when he is not traveling with his wife, **Theresa**, to other parts of Texas) had surgery to deal with sinusitis and nasal septum. He reports that he is still dealing with sinus headaches. On Tuesday, he has an appointment with his doctor.

In the June 27 bulletin, we mentioned that **Charlene Dickinson McCoy** of Glade-water (sister of **Roxanna West**) was hospitalized due to low energy and low oxygen. Following are excerpts from Mrs. West on Wednesday: “Charlene went to work after being off work several weeks with difficulty breathing. She is back in the hospital for the third time again with breathing difficulties. They are taking her off one blood-pressure med. Her potassium is high.” On Friday, Mrs. McCoy had a heart catheterization—which showed her heart in good condition and no blockages.

In last week’s bulletin, we mentioned that **Jerry Jones** of Ojai, Calif., was considering his options after being diagnosed with lymphoma. On Monday, he was scheduled for his first chemotherapy treatment. On Tuesday, he decided to forgo the chemotherapy treatment at this time.

New prayer requests

Please remember **Donna Weese** in your prayers as she adjusts to one of her sons (**Wayne**) moving from Big Sandy to Wichita, Kan., to be closer to family members. Mr. Weese was able to make this move because he knew his brother **Terry** lives in Longview and his mom has many friends in the area.

Margaret Pitre of Ville Platte, La. (mother of **Lisa Smith**), has been having many health issues and getting dizzy for no apparent reason.

Doug Baer of Oakley, Calif. (cousin of **Laura Moran**), has been diagnosed with cancer of the bone and prostate.

Herb Vierra of Azusa, Calif., died on July 13. Please remember his wife, **Ann**, and the rest of the family in your prayers.

Eye on the world

- A resignation letter from *The New York Times* by (op-ed and book-review editor) Bari Weiss was posted at bariweiss.com on July 14, 2020.
- An article by Elizabeth Nolan Brown titled “Telemedicine Abortion Gets Green Light From Federal Court” was posted at reason.com on July 14, 2020.
- An article by Joel B. Pollak titled “Smithsonian African American History Museum Defines ‘Whiteness’ [With Traits That the Museum Characterizes as Systemic Racism to Be Combated Without Acknowledging That These Positive Traits Apply to Other Races]” was posted at breitbart.com on July 15, 2020.
- An article by Michelle Malkin titled “Mask Mandates Are a Public-Health Menace” was posted at creators.com on July 15, 2020.

Word tickler

Some people would consider the following quote to be an oxymoron. But we like to call it a word tickler—“Why do we put suits in garment bags and garments in a suitcase?”

Psalm 31

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 July 18, 2020.

By Dave Havir

BIG SANDY, Texas—Like many congregations, our church service has Scripture reading at our weekly gathering. We have scheduled it between our singing of hymns and our listening to a sermon presentation.

As the pastor, I have the opportunity to schedule the verses that are read each week. Right now I am choosing verses from the book of Psalms. Although I am not scheduling a reading from each psalm (because the book has 150 psalms), I pick selections with the intent to comfort and encourage our congregation.

Even though I knew what psalm was going to be read last week (Psalm 31), I was moved as I listened to the message read in our church service last week. The words were very encouraging to my mind and heart—as we watch what is occurring in our world today.

Please let me share Psalm 31 with you.

Psalm 31:1-2—“In You, O LORD, I put my trust; let me never be ashamed; deliver me in Your righteousness. Bow down Your ear to me, deliver me speedily; be my rock of refuge, a fortress of defense to save me.”

Psalm 31:3-5—“For You are my rock and my fortress; therefore, for Your name’s sake, lead me and guide me. Pull me out of the net which they have secretly laid for me, for You are my strength. Into Your hand I commit my spirit; you have redeemed me, O LORD God of truth.”

Psalm 31:6-8—“I have hated those who regard useless idols; but I trust in the LORD. I will be glad and rejoice in Your mercy, for You have considered my trouble; You have known my soul in adversities, and have not shut me up into the hand of the enemy; You have set my feet in a wide place.”

Psalm 31:9-13—“Have mercy on me, O LORD, for I am in trouble; my eye wastes away with grief, yes, my soul and

my body! For my life is spent with grief, and my years with sighing; my strength fails because of my iniquity, and my bones waste away. I am a reproach among all my enemies, but especially among my neighbors, and am repulsive to my acquaintances; those who see me outside flee from me. I am forgotten like a dead man, out of mind; I am like a broken vessel. For I hear the slander of many; fear is on every side; while they take counsel together against me, they scheme to take away my life.”

Psalm 31:14-18—“But as for me, I trust in You, O LORD; I say, ‘You are my God.’ My times are in Your hand; deliver me from the hand of my enemies, and from those who persecute me. Make Your face shine upon Your servant; save me for Your mercies’ sake. Do not let me be ashamed, O LORD, for I have called upon You; let the wicked be ashamed; let them be silent in the grave. Let the lying lips be put to silence, which speak insolent things proudly and contemptuously against the righteous.”

Psalm 31:19-20—“Oh, how great is Your goodness, which You have laid up for those who fear You, which You have prepared for those who trust in You in the presence of the sons of men! You shall hide them in the secret place of Your presence from the plots of man; You shall keep them secretly in a pavilion from the strife of tongues.”

Psalm 31:21-22—“Blessed be the LORD, for He has shown me His marvelous kindness in a strong city! For I said in my haste, ‘I am cut off from before Your eyes’; nevertheless You heard the voice of my supplications when I cried out to You.”

Psalm 31:23-24—“Oh, love the LORD, all you His saints! For the LORD preserves the faithful, and fully repays the proud person. Be of good courage, and He shall strengthen your heart, all you who hope in the LORD.”