

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Church of God Big Sandy

ChurchofGodBigSandy.com

Aug. 22, 2020 • 1:00 p.m. • Sunset 7:56

Bible study and classes

Interactive study (1:00) Wynn Skelton

Bible study (2:00) Neil McIver

Order of service—3:00 p.m.

Song leader Neil McIver

Pianist Dixon Cartwright

Scripture reading Revelation 2:1–7

Sermon Wynn Skelton

Quick takes

1. Welcome to guest speaker—The congregation welcomes Wynn Skelton again today. (Ron Avey was scheduled to speak, but Dave Havar suggested that Mr. Avey postpone to another time so that he could concentrate upon his wife's health condition. Since Mr. Havar was scheduled to be at another congregation, Mr. Skelton offered to speak. Weeks ago, Mr. Havar told the congregation from the pulpit that he intended to utilize Mr. Skelton as often as possible before Mr. Skelton returned to his normal routine.) The congregation thanks Mr. Skelton for being available when the coronavirus disrupted his previous travel schedule with the Church of God International.
2. Guest speaker next Saturday—We are happy to report that George Crow is scheduled to visit on Aug. 29.
3. Interrelating with other congregations—Today, Dave Havar is giving a sermon in the Shreveport area.
4. Interactive topic today—Wynn Skelton is scheduled to moderate an interactive discussion about the Sermon on the Mount.
5. Prayers for peaceful protesters—Please pray for the citizens who are mature and responsibly exercising their right of peaceful protest.

6. Prayers for the victims—Please pray for the citizens who are suffering from the criminals, mobs and thugs who are tormenting our country.
7. 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.
8. 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.
9. Edifying the Body—This week's article is "Give Them Hugs and Let Them Play" by Michelle Malkin.
10. Among Friends—This week's article is "Disciples Helping Each Other" by Dave Havir.
11. Eye on the World—This week's "Eye on the World" is 38 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**.

Eli Benedict turned 98 on Friday. He was anticipating various family members visiting on Friday, today and tomorrow. (**Dave Havir** offered to take a cake to the house on Friday. However, **Jean** reminded Mr. Havir that her husband receives plenty of sugar during the visits from his children.) Here are two health reminders. First, Mr. Benedict still has discomfort with his legs. Second, please remember that Mr. Benedict is scheduled to have his right cataract removed on Aug. 24.

Jean Benedict reported that an infection in her leg resurfaced. The stinging and burning have made her uncomfortable.

On Tuesday, **Emma Lou Bacher** of Plano returned to her assisted-living facility. Although she is dealing with some cognitive challenges, she has family and friends helping her.

Please remember **Thayne Slater** of Canyon, who recently had a brain tumor removed and was recently diagnosed with cancer of the spine. This week, he went to an oncologist in Amarillo—where he will be having treatment instead of traveling to Houston.

Please pray for **Donna Searer** (mother of **Mark Searer**), who fell and is recovering from hip surgery.

Tim Lindholm of Minneapolis has decided to begin chemo treatments with the intention of shrinking the cancer blocking the stents. He is looking forward to seeing his friends at the Feast of Tabernacles in Destin.

New prayer requests

On Friday (Aug. 14), **Linda Avey** went to the ER with pain. Early Saturday morning, she was transferred to Longview Regional for IVs and antibiotics. On Sunday, the doctor diagnosed a kidney infection. On Tuesday, a urologist said that her kidneys looked good, that she had no kidney stones and her pancreas was inflamed. She was able to go home on Tuesday. She and **Ron** want to thank everyone for the many prayers.

Goodwill visits

Following are texts that Dave Havir sent to board members last Sunday regarding his goodwill visits to two congregations (Methodist and Baptist) in Big Sandy last Sunday.

■ “You might remember that shortly after the community Thanksgiving church service in our building (last November), Jack Hetzel (then 97 years old), the pastor of the local Methodist church, attended our church service. [At that time, he invited me to attend his church service.] I finally returned the favor. This morning at 9:00, I visited their church service.”

■ “Since I was dressed in my ‘go-to-meeting clothes’ (no suit, but nice casual), I went to the Baptist church in Big Sandy at 11:00. Since the music director at that church [and an employee at the ALERT Academy] helped out at the old Cartwright home that was crushed, I took Dixon with me.”

■ “Be prepared for a few visitors from the Methodist church and Baptist church at our church service. The Baptist pastor wants to visit. I told him that I travel (for example, to Shreveport next week). He wants to come when I am speaking.”

Eye on the world

■ An article by Karen Weitzberg titled “Countries Around the World Are Using Border Surveillance Systems Against Their Own Citizens” was posted at theconversation.com on Aug. 17, 2020.

■ An article by Josef Federman titled “Officials Say Israel, Sudan Close to Peace Agreement” was posted at apnews.com on Aug. 18, 2020.

■ An article by CNSNews Staff titled “Nancy Pelosi: ‘They Know They Can’t Win the Election on the Level’ ” was posted at cnsnews.com on Aug. 19, 2000.

Disciples Helping Each Other

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. 22, 2020.

By **Dave Havir**

BIG SANDY, Texas—Last week, I gave a sermon titled “Disciples Helping Each Other.” The majority of the scriptures that I quoted in that sermon were from the book of Acts. I decided to write this article with some of those scriptures and a few additional verses.

■ Acts 1:12-13—When the Son of God returned to Jerusalem, he entered an “upper room” to be with His disciples and family members. The Bible mentions that there were 120 people there.

■ Acts 4:32-37—This section of Scripture shows the disciples looking out for each other. Some people use these verses to show that the Bible teaches socialism.

Resembles socialism

On one hand, I understand why some people believe that these verses promote socialism.

Acts 4:32—“Now the multitude of those who believed were of one heart and one soul; neither did anyone say that any of the things he possessed was his own, but they had all things in common.”

Acts 4:34-35—“Nor was there anyone among them who lacked; for all who were possessors of lands or houses sold them, and brought the proceeds of the things that were sold, and laid them at the apostles’ feet; and they distributed to each as anyone had need.”

Acts 4:36-37—“And Joses, who was also named Barnabas by the apostles (which is translated Son of Encouragement), a Levite of the country of Cyprus, having land, sold it, and brought the money and laid it at the apostles’ feet.”

Not demanded

Yet, on the other hand, I caution disciples to recognize religious organizations and religious individuals who are overtly or subtly trying to get money from kind people.

2 Peter 2:3—“By covetousness they will exploit you with deceptive words; for a

long time their judgment has not been idle, and their destruction does not slumber.”

The Bible talks about cheerful giving.

2 Corinthians 9:7—“So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver.”

■ I think it was wonderful for those disciples in Acts 4 to want to share with each other.

■ But I recommend that disciples of today continue to maintain ownership of physical possessions—as they have a giving heart toward helping other people.

Hospitality in Acts

■ Acts 8:1—When persecution arose against the church at Jerusalem, most of the disciples were scattered.

■ Acts 9:36-39—When Tabitha (also called Dorcas) of Joppa died, the widows were weeping because of all the clothing that she had made for her friends.

■ Acts 11:27-30—When there was a famine throughout the world, the disciples in Antioch decided to send relief to the disciples in Judea.

■ Acts 16:14-15—In Philippi, Paul baptized a successful business lady and her family.

■ Acts 16:40—Paul and Silas returned to Lydia’s house—after a harrowing experience with magistrates, a beating, prison and deliverance.

■ Acts 20:6—Paul stayed with disciples in Troas for five days.

■ Acts 20:7-12—Paul broke bread with them and preached for a long time.

■ Acts 21:4-6—Paul stayed with disciples in Tyre for seven days. The disciples walked him to the edge of the city, and he boarded a ship.

■ Acts 21:8-13—While Paul stayed with Philip in Caesarea, Agabus the prophet warned Paul about danger in Jerusalem. The disciples pleaded with Paul not to travel to Jerusalem. But Paul decided to go.

It is a beautiful thing to see disciples helping each other.