

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Church of God Big Sandy

ChurchofGodBigSandy.com

June 12, 2021 • 1:00 p.m. • Sunset 8:26

Bible studies

Interactive study—1:00 p.m. Jerry Thompson

Presentation study—2:00 Dave Havir
(Also transmitted live)

Order of service—3:00 p.m.

Song leader Reg Killingley

Pianist Dixon Cartwright

Scripture reading Psalm 119:81–96

Sermon Larry Watkins

Quick takes

1. Welcome to our guest speaker—The congregation welcomes Larry and Kitty Watkins. Mr. Watkins is scheduled to give the sermon during the 3:00 church service.
2. Pastor's trip—Today, Dave Havir spoke at the Tyler congregation of the Church of God International (at 11:00 a.m.). He is scheduled to return to give the presentation Bible study (at 2:00 p.m.) and to attend our church service.
3. Upcoming guest speakers—We are pleased to announce that a few guest speakers will be visiting us in the coming weeks.
 - Today Larry Watkins
 - June 19 Jim Johns
 - June 26 Wynn Skelton
4. Feast of Tabernacles housing—Recently, we posted information about Feast housing for the sites in Destin and Myrtle Beach.
 - Destin Pelican Beach Resort
 - Myrtle Beach Avista Resort
5. Wednesday-night Bible study on June 16 at 7:00—People are encouraged to attend in the building or via a live transmission.

6. Appreciating the Wednesday-night Bible studies—Many people in the extended congregation have expressed their appreciation for Dave Havir giving regular presentations (on the website and on Facebook) at the Wednesday-night Bible studies. Here are the subjects that have been covered.
- April 24 Lessons From the Exodus—Part 1 of 4
 - March 3 Lessons From the Exodus—Part 2 of 4
 - March 10 Lessons From the Exodus—Part 3 of 4
 - March 17 Lessons From the Exodus—Part 4 of 4
 - March 24 New Testament Symbols
 - March 31 Wilderness Sin No. 1—Lusting, Murmuring and Tempting Christ
 - April 14 Wilderness Sin No. 2—Idolatry
 - April 21 Wilderness Sin No. 3—Sexual Immorality
 - April 28 Obey God—to Be Blessed Now
 - May 5 Obey God—to Be Blessed at the Resurrection
 - May 12 Obey God—to Willingly Honor God Now
 - May 19 Seeking God's Will
 - May 26 Accepting God's Will
 - June 2 God Sometimes Says “No”
 - June 9 God Often Says “Yes”
7. Edifying the Body—This week's article is “The Definition of Courage Has Shifted Since Normandy” by Ben Shapiro.
8. Among Friends—This week's article is “Prayer—Talking to a Perfect Father” by Dave Havir.
9. 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, David Bonilla, 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**.

Following are some updates about **Laura Moran** (who suffered a stroke on May 27). Mrs. Moran has been heavily sedated, which has delayed the doctor seeing how much damage may have occurred during the stroke. (The doctor did mention that she has an infection in a lung.) On Monday, the doctor removed tubes from her mouth and throat that were designed to help her breathing and nourishment. On Monday, the doctor did a tracheotomy to help her breathing, and, on Tuesday, the doctor inserted a feeding tube to help her nourishment. On Thursday, the doctor decreased the amount of sedation. Her family members appreciate your prayers for Mrs. Moran and for them.

In last week's bulletin, we mentioned that **Willis Hogg** was scheduled for surgery on Friday (June 4) to repair the broken bones in his ankle. The family reports that the surgery went well.

New prayer requests

On Thursday, **Ron Avey** had his regular appointment with his cardiologist. (He has not been suffering any major negative symptoms.) The doctor was pleased with the results of the EKG and the echocardiogram. He appreciates your prayers.

Linda Avey reports that she is feeling better. (Most in the congregation were probably not aware that she had not been feeling 100 percent recently.) She appreciates your prayers.

On Monday, **Helen Ellard** of Big Sandy (mother of **Andrew McIver**) had hip-replacement surgery.

James Alexander of Marshall died on June 6. Please remember his wife, **Louise**, and the rest of the family in your prayers.

Scriptures to consider

1 Samuel 15:22—"Then Samuel said: "Has the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to heed than the fat of rams."

Psalms 51:16-17—"For You do not desire sacrifice, or else I would give it; You do not delight in burnt offering. The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit, a broken and a contrite heart—these, O God, You will not despise."

Romans 12:1-2—"I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God."

Hebrews 13:15-16—"Therefore by Him let us continually offer the sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of our lips, giving thanks to His name. But do not forget to do good and to share, for with such sacrifices God is well pleased."

1 Peter 2:4-5—"Coming to Him as to a living stone, rejected indeed by men, but chosen by God and precious, you also, as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ."

From church bulletins

"Irving Benson and Jessie Carter were married on Oct. 24 in the church.
So ends a friendship that began in their school days."

“Prayer—Talking to a Perfect Father”

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 June 12, 2021.

By Dave Havir

BIG SANDY, Texas—One of the greatest lessons in life is for a person to learn how to effectively pray. And one of the greatest services that a friend can provide to other people is to influence them to have a better prayer life.

Today, I am starting a seven-part series about prayer.

■ Part 1—Talking to a perfect Father.

Flawed examples

Whenever I encourage people to view God as a Father, I realize that my worthwhile goal is sometimes met with negative reactions. The reasons are understandable.

The experiences that many people have with parents are often not positive. The memories may range from mildly negative to serious emotional scenarios.

But I want to influence people to get past the negative experiences, and I believe that accepting God as a perfect Father is the best course of action.

Understand my paradigm

It is my recommendation that you view the Scriptures with the paradigm of God as your Father. For all of us, He is the Father we never had.

■ Ephesians 2:8-9 and Titus 3:4-7 tell us that we are saved by grace. (I had nothing to do with my physical birth.)

■ Ephesians 2:10 and Titus 3:8 proceed to tell us that our Father has expectations of us. (Since I had nothing to do with my physical birth, my parents told me what they expected of me and my siblings.)

Loving correction

1 John 3:2—“Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like

Him, for we shall see Him as He is.”

1 John 4:19—“We love Him because He first loved us.”

Hebrews 12:5-6—“And you have forgotten the exhortation which speaks to you as to sons: ‘My son, do not despise the chastening of the LORD, nor be discouraged when you are rebuked by Him; for whom the LORD loves He chastens, and scourges every son whom He receives.’ ”

Hebrews 12:7-10—“If you endure chastening, God deals with you as with sons; for what son is there whom a father does not chasten? But if you are without chastening, of which all have become partakers, then you are illegitimate and not sons. Furthermore, we have had human fathers who corrected us, and we paid them respect. Shall we not much more readily be in subjection to the Father of spirits and live? For they indeed for a few days chastened us as seemed best to them, but He for our profit, that we may be partakers of His holiness.”

Talking to the Father

Matthew 6:9-13—“In this manner, therefore, pray: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.”

1 Peter 5:6-7—“Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time, casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you.”

James 4:3—“You ask and do not receive, because you ask amiss, that you may spend it on your pleasures.”

1 John 5:14—“Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us.”