

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Church of God Big Sandy

ChurchofGodBigSandy.com

July 3, 2021 • 1:00 p.m. • Sunset 8:30

Bible studies

Interactive study—1:00 p.m. Dave Havir

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 119:129–144

Sermon Neil McIver

Quick takes

1. Subject of 1:00 interactive study—For those who are reading this bulletin Friday night on the our website, the subject of the interactive study is “The Mark of the Beast.”
2. Guest speaker next Saturday—We are pleased to announce that Morris Foster will be visiting us on July 10.
3. Wednesday-night Bible study on July 7 at 7:00—People are encouraged to attend in the building or via a live transmission.
4. Feast of Tabernacles housing—Destin and Myrtle Beach have community activities during our time at the Feast of Tabernacles. Please book your Feast housing for the Feast sites in Destin and Myrtle Beach.
 - Destin Pelican Beach Resort
 - Myrtle Beach Avista Resort
5. Feast coordinators—Here are the Feast coordinators for the three sites that are presently planned for this year.
 - Big Sandy Ron and Linda Avey
 - Destin Ken and Janice Tate
 - Myrtle Beach Lyle and Kathy Kerby

6. Edifying the Body—This week's article is "Staying Safe Has Become a Religion" by Dennis Prager.
7. Among Friends—This week's article is "Prayer—God Told Paul 'No' " by Dave Havir.
8. Eye on the World—This week's "Eye on the World" is 36 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**.

Although **Laura Moran** (who suffered a stroke on May 27) does not yet vocally respond, the family is happy that she opens her eyes at times and that she seems to hear when people are talking to her. Family members continue to search for the best option of continuing care. They appreciate your prayers.

In last week's bulletin, we mentioned that **Ronnie Shirley** (who had a PET scan on Tuesday, June 15) was scheduled for a follow-up doctor appointment on Thursday, June 24. At that appointment, Mr. Shirley heard the following two reports. First, the treatment for the rectal cancer had kept the growth at the same size—did not grow, but did not diminish. Second, the doctor found a new "little spot" in his colon. He is scheduled for another doctor appointment on July 8 to consider his treatment plans.

In the Feb. 20 bulletin, we mentioned that **Cassandra Jenkins** of Lindale (daughter of **Shirley Spearman**) had a portion of her right leg amputated. On Tuesday, the doctors gave her a prosthetic leg. She is anticipating therapy to assist in fitting the new leg and learning to walk with it.

In last week's bulletin, we mentioned that **Richard Sharp** had been diagnosed with gout in his legs and arms. The swelling was so bad that the congregation lent him one of our wheelchairs. He is doing better, and the family returned the wheelchair.

New prayer requests

Shirley Spearman has been dealing with dizziness. Her cardiologist wants her to take a stress test. Mrs. Spearman has been hesitant about the stress test for two reasons. First, she is generally apprehensive about taking a stress test. Second, she wonders if the dizziness might be related to her ears. (Here is some background. Years ago, she learned that she has a hole in an eardrum. Recently, she has been experiencing an increasing loss of hearing in her right ear.) Mrs. Spearman appreciates your prayers.

David Martin of Lindale had been having health problems (fatigued and loss of weight) since December. He was diagnosed with an infection in the blood. While the infection in the blood has been treated, it is common for the bacteria to float and to look for the weakest spots in the body. In his case, the bacteria attached to a heart valve and a place on his lower spine. Ultimately, Mr. Martin was diagnosed with a faulty heart valve. He is scheduled for surgery (to replace the heart valve) on July 12 in Tyler. He and **Cindy** appreciate your prayer.

Felsha Stone (fourth-grade-math teacher in Big Sandy) was recently diagnosed with metastatic adenocarcinoma (considered a “rare, aggressive, incurable cancer”). Initial plans include immediate chemotherapy followed by surgery.

Marge Ashley of Gadsden, Ala. (mother of **Scott Ashley**), died on June 26. Please remember the family in your prayers.

Bill Cowan of Ooltewah, Tenn., died on June 29. Please remember his wife, **Betty**, and the rest of the family in your prayers.

Recent topics at Wednesday-night study

The following list of Bible-study topics at the recent Wednesday-night Bible study is given for two reasons. First, this will give members of the congregation the opportunity to listen to subjects that they may have missed. Second, the pastor thinks that it is important for the congregation to see what subjects are on his mind.

- | | |
|-----------|---------------------------------|
| ■ May 19 | Seeking God’s Will |
| ■ May 26 | Accepting God’s Will |
| ■ June 2 | God Sometimes Says “No” |
| ■ June 9 | God Often Says “Yes” |
| ■ June 16 | The Angel of Revelation 14:6–7 |
| ■ June 23 | The Angel of Revelation 14:8 |
| ■ June 30 | The Angel of Revelation 14:9–11 |

Scriptures to consider

Romans 12:1—“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.”

Romans 12:2—“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.”

From church bulletins

This evening at 7:00 there will be hymn singing in the park across from the church. Bring a blanket and come prepared to sin.

“Prayer—God Told Paul “No”

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 3, 2021.

By Dave Havir

BIG SANDY, Texas—On June 12, I started a seven-part series about prayer. Today is part four.

- Part 1—Talking to a Perfect Father
- Part 2—Faith and God’s Will
- Part 3—God Told Moses and David “No”
- Part 4—God Told Paul “No”

Thorn in the flesh

In this article, I will discuss a time when the Father said “no” to the apostle Paul.

Paul asked the Lord to remove a “thorn in the flesh” from his life.

2 Corinthians 12:7-8—“And lest I should be exalted above measure by the abundance of the revelations, a thorn in the flesh was given to me, a messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I be exalted above measure. Concerning this thing I pleaded with the Lord three times that it might depart from me.”

Did you notice the purpose of Paul having the thorn in the flesh? The phrase “lest I should be exalted above measure” is mentioned twice in *2 Corinthians 12:7*.

Shaping Paul’s behavior

Bible students recognize a different approach for God declining Paul’s request compared to the reason for Him declining the requests of Moses and David.

■ Moses expressed anger and didn’t follow instructions.

■ David committed adultery and covered up his sin with murder.

In this situation, the Lord was seeking to help Paul’s approach—so that Paul could continue to be a useful tool in the Lord’s hands. It is true that the Lord was seeking to shape Paul’s behavior. That’s what a loving Father would do.

Bearing with Paul’s folly

2 Corinthians 11:1-2—“Oh, that you would bear with me in a little folly—and

indeed you do bear with me. For I am jealous for you with godly jealousy. For I have betrothed you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ.”

2 Corinthians 11:5-6—“For I consider that I am not at all inferior to the most eminent apostles. Even though I am untrained in speech, yet I am not in knowledge. But we have been thoroughly manifested among you in all things.”

2 Corinthians 11:13—“For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into apostles of Christ.”

2 Corinthians 11:16—“I say again, let no one think me a fool. If otherwise, at least receive me as a fool, that I also may boast a little.”

2 Corinthians 11:20—“For you put up with it if one brings you into bondage, if one devours you, if one takes from you, if one exalts himself, if one strikes you on the face.”

2 Corinthians 11:22-23—“Are they Hebrews? So am I. Are they Israelites? So am I. Are they the seed of Abraham? So am I. Are they ministers of Christ—I speak as a fool—I am more: in labors more abundant, in stripes above measure, in prisons more frequently, in deaths often.”

In *2 Corinthians 11:23-29*, Paul mentioned many ways he helped them. In *2 Corinthians 12:1-6*, he reminded them that he had received visions and revelations.

Answer and response

Notice the Lord’s answer and Paul’s response.

2 Corinthians 12:9—“And He said to me, ‘My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness . . .’”

2 Corinthians 12:9-10—“ . . . Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in needs, in persecutions, in distresses, for Christ’s sake. For when I am weak, then I am strong.”