

# Church of God Big Sandy

## ChurchofGodBigSandy.com

### Oct. 1, 2022 • 1:00 p.m. • Sunset 7:04

#### 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	Ron Avey
Pianist	Dixon Cartwright
Scripture reading	Malachi 3:1-18
Sermon	Neil McIver

#### Quick takes

1. Day of Atonement—The congregation will be observing the Day of Atonement on Wednesday, Oct. 5. Following is the schedule.
  - 1:00 Interactive study—Dave Havir
  - 2:00 Presentation study—Dave Havir
  - 3:00 Church sermon—Jim Bald
  
2. Feast coordinators—Here are the coordinators for our four Feast sites.
 

• Big Sandy	Ron and Linda Avey
• Destin	Neil and Martha McIver
• North Myrtle Beach	Lyle and Kathy Kerby
• Prescott	Dennis and Karen Benson
  
3. Pastor's travel for Feast of Tabernacles—Following is Dave Havir's travel schedule for this year's Feast of Tabernacles.
  - First two days in Destin
  - Day three is a travel day to Myrtle Beach
  - Five days in Myrtle Beach

4. Please remember to pray for the following people who are not able to regularly attend our church service.

- Mickey Ashcraft
- David and Becky Bonilla
- Timberly Dunnam
- Elaine Holloway
- Annette Payne
- Ruth Roe
- Sonny Rosenberger
- Ronnie Shirley
- Elaine Townsend
- Donna Weese

5. Edifying the Body—This week's article is "Parental Authority Is Basis of Civilization" by Dennis Prager.

6. Among Friends—This week's article is "Reminder About Course of Abijah" by Dave Havir.

7. Eye on the World—This week's "Eye on the World" is 40 pages. (This edition has one article and 329 headlines.)

### **Prayer updates**

In the bulletin for the Feast of Trumpets, we mentioned that **Timberly Dunnam** had an appointment on Tuesday to have a soft-tissue X-ray of her throat (to see how the cyst on her thyroid looks). However, she was not feeling well, and the appointment had to be postponed. She is hoping to have the X-ray on Monday.

Please remember **Jean Benedict** as she recovers from the surgery to repair her broken right hip.

Please remember **Linda Avey** as she recovers from a "fractured" right shoulder.

Please remember **Dave McLearen** as he recovers from the fall that injured his head, knee and ankle.

Please remember **Dorothy Jones** (mother of **Shirley Spearman**), who has been dealing with atrial fibrillation (an irregular and rapid heart rhythm)—and ongoing exhaustion.

In last Saturday's bulletin, we mentioned that **Gary Giles** of Big Sandy went to a hospital to deal with an infection and weakness. He was subsequently moved to a rehab facility.

## New prayer requests

On Sunday, **Neil McIver** noticed some facial muscles relaxing on the left side of the face. On Sunday, he informed his children of the condition. On Monday at church, Mr. McIver was feeling fine—even as you saw him lead the song service on Monday. On Tuesday, he went to his primary-care doctor (not his cardiologist), who suspected Bell's palsy (which is facial paralysis). Since she wanted to rule out the possibility of the problem occurring because of ministrokes, she scheduled a CT-scan for Wednesday morning at 9:00. On Friday, the primary-care doctor gave the results of the CT-scan—ruling out ministrokes. She still believes the problem to be Bell's palsy. At this point, Mr. McIver plans to do facial exercises to work those muscles. He is feeling fine and appreciates your prayers. (When Mr. Havar sent out an update on Friday, Mr. McIver's long-time friend **Clay Forrestier** responded with the following comment: "With all the talking he does, how can he not be exercising both sides of his face?")

On Friday, **Kate Vincent** experienced an arthritic flare-up with a knee. It was so painful that she was having difficulty trying to stand up.

**Lulu Stephens** of Tulsa, Okla., has been diagnosed with walking pneumonia.

## Thought for the week

"For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given; and the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."—*Isaiah 9:6*

## Big Sandy Feast activity schedule

Sunday, 10/9	Meet & greet	6:00–8:00 p.m.
Every day	Light refreshments	9:30–10:30 a.m.
Every day	Church service	11:00 a.m.
Monday, 10/10	Meal (not potluck)	After church
Tuesday, 10/11	Museum & card-making	1:30 p.m.
Wednesday, 10/12	Interactive Bible study	1:30 p.m.
Thursday, 10/13	Cookout	4:00–8:00 p.m.
Friday, 10/14	Movie	1:30 p.m.
Saturday, 10/15	Interactive Bible study	1:30 p.m.
Sunday, 10/16	Seminar	1:30 p.m.
Monday, 10/17	Potluck meal	After church

## Feast of Tabernacles speaking schedules

### Big Sandy

Monday—10/10	Wynn Skelton
Tuesday—10/11	Wynn Skelton
Wednesday—10/12	Gordon McCarty
Thursday—10/13	Bert Moers
Friday—10/14	Ron Avey
Saturday—10/15	Max Davis
Sunday—10/16	Mark Weiss
Monday—10/17	Vance Stinson

### Destin

Monday—10/10	Dave Havir
Tuesday—10/11	Dave Havir
Wednesday—10/12	Danny Miller and Neal Parker
Thursday—10/13	Ben Franklin and Steven Gibson
Friday—10/14	Daniel Hammons and Ken Tate
Saturday—10/15	Neal Parker
Sunday—10/16	Neil McIver and Steven Gibson
Monday—10/17	Ken Tate

### Myrtle Beach

Monday—10/10	Lyle Kerby and John Havir
Tuesday—10/11	Chris Kerby and Jim Johns
Wednesday—10/12	Arnold Stamey and Lenny Cacchio
Thursday—10/13	Steve Andrews
Friday—10/14	Jordan Wayne and John Havir
Saturday—10/15	Brian Kelso and Dave Havir
Sunday—10/16	Ryan Andrews and Jim Johns
Monday—10/17	Havir and Lenny Cacchio

### Prescott

1 DVD by Dave Havir (recently recorded)  
 2 DVDs by Ken Tate (given in Big Sandy on March 24, 2018)  
 Dennis Benson, Pat Gordon, Bob Schimmel, Drury Sylvester

## Thought with a twist

"I used to be indecisive, but now I'm not so sure."



## Reminder About Course of Abijah

This article is from the "Among Friends" section of the Church of God Big Sandy's website, churchofgodbigandy.com. It was posted for the weekend of Oct. 1, 2022.

**By Dave Havir**

BIG SANDY, Texas—At our Bible study on Wednesday night, I gave a presentation titled "Course of Abijah." While the average person who attends any church is probably not aware of the meaning of those words, many Bible students know the significance.

That subject is related to the biblical account about the birth of Jesus Christ. And, since I believe that the Son of God was born in the autumn of the year, I make it a habit of talking about His birth at this time of the year.

### Some benchmarks

Here are some benchmarks about the birth of Christ from the book of Luke.

- Luke 2:1-3—Caesar Augustus gave a decree for citizens to be registered.
- Luke 2:4-5—Joseph and his pregnant wife left Nazareth in Galilee to go to Bethlehem in Judea.
- Luke 2:6-7—While they were there, the Son of God was born.

### Starting point

It is a logical question to ask: At what time of the year was Jesus Christ born?

Let's notice some aspects of the first chapter of the book of Luke. Here is a

quick summary of some keys points.

- Luke 1:5—Zacharias, a priest, performed his duties during the course of Abijah.
- Luke 1:23-24—After Zacharias returned home from Jerusalem, his wife, Elizabeth, conceived.
- Luke 1:26-28—In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, Mary conceived.
- Luke 1:36—John was born approximately six months before Jesus.

As you can see, the course of Abijah serves as a starting point to the chain of events.

### **System of priests**

Since modern Christians are not living under a system of physical temples, physical priests and physical sacrifices, it is easy to see why the phrase "course of Abijah" means nothing to most.

What does history reveal to us about the course of Abijah?

Notice 1 Chronicles 24.

- Verse 1—This chapter contained a listing of how the sons of Aaron were divided into workgroups.
- Verses 7-19—Here is a list of the 24 priests mentioned at that time.
- Verse 10—Abijah was listed as the eighth priest in the order of 24.

### **A few more details**

Here are a few more details about the course of Abijah.

- The Jewish calendar begins in the spring (Nisan), so the first course of priests (Jehoiarib) began at that time.
- After the 24th course was completed, the cycle of courses would repeat so that each group of priests would serve in the temple twice a year during their course.

- However, all the priests would serve in the temple during three major festivals (Passover, Pentecost and Tabernacles), which brought the total time of service to five times a year.
- Many historians believe that the course of Abijah mentioned in Luke 1:5 was the early course and not the second course.

### **Fred Coulter's research**

In his book titled *Harmony of the Gospels*, author Fred Coulter provided some details about the course of Abijah.

On page 8, Mr. Coulter wrote: "Each course or shift was to work one full week, from noon Sabbath to noon Sabbath (Talmud, Sukkah)."

On page 9, Mr. Coulter added: "The Talmud reveals that the first course, or shift, began in the first week of the first month of the Hebrew Calendar. The second course worked the second week. This rotation continued on a week-by-week basis through the twenty-four courses. Each course had the basic responsibility twice a year to perform a one-week shift.

"In addition, all courses were required to work three extra weeks during the year. These three weeks were for the three holy day seasons: Passover, Pentecost, and Tabernacles. Thus, all the priests shared equally in the priestly responsibilities for the entire year."

### **Early course**

Based on Mr. Coulter's writings, we see that he agrees with the many historians who conclude that the course of Abijah mentioned in Luke 1:5 was the early course and not the second course.

On page 9, he continued: "Zacharias worked the eighth course of Abijah, which was assigned the ninth and tenth weeks from the beginning of the year. The ninth week was from Iyar 27 through Sivan 5, which was June 3 through June 10. The tenth week was from Sivan 5 through Sivan 12, which was June 10 through June 17. This was during the week of Pentecost."

### **Autumn birth**

On page 10, Mr. Coulter wrote: "Projecting forward nine months from Mary's probable conception, we arrive at the two-week period during which Christ was probably born. That two-week period was Elul 24–Tishri 8, or September 16-29."

An autumn birth seems correct when a Bible student considers that shepherds were watching over their flock by night (Luke 2:8).

### **Associated with a holy day?**

Some people believe the Son of God's birth occurred on the Feast of Trumpets and other people believe that He was born at the beginning of the Feast of Tabernacles.

The people who prefer the birth time to be at the beginning of the Feast of Tabernacles often like to take the eight days leading to Christ's circumcision and correlate them to the eighth day of the Feast of Tabernacles. While that correlation would not be considered "proof," it is certainly interesting.

### **Food for thought**

Here is a factor that has influenced many Bible students to accept an autumn birth.

- Luke 3:23—Christ was 30 years old when He started His ministry.
- Daniel 9:27—Many Bible students wonder if being cut off in the "middle of the week" meant that the ministry of Jesus Christ lasted for 3 1/2 years.
- In that scenario, a person can count backwards six months from His crucifixion (during the Passover in Spring) to conclude the time of His birth was in the autumn.