

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Church of God Big Sandy

ChurchofGodBigSandy.com

June 3, 2023 • 1:00 p.m. • Sunset 8:22

Memorial service—Elaine Holloway

Memories—Noon till 1:00 Classroom No. 1

Food—1:00 till 1:45 Classroom No. 2

Bible studies

No interactive study today No interactive study

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

Order of service—3:00 p.m.

Song leader Clay Forrestier

Pianist Dixon Cartwright

Scripture reading Matthew 5:1–12

Sermon Neil McIver

Quick takes

1. Traveling speaker next Saturday—We are pleased to announce that Bill Crow from the Houston area will be coming to speak next Saturday.
2. Thank you—Thank you to those in the congregation who participated in the nomination portion of the board election during the month of May. The congregation selected the following four people to be considered for two positions on the board: David Coleman, Melodee Eishen, Lisa Smith and Stan West.
3. Edifying the Body—This week's article is "America's Version of Bizarro World" by Allen West.
4. Among Friends—This week's article is "Parable of the Sower—Part 1" by Dave Havir.

5. **Eye on the World**—The version of this week’s “Eye on the World” that is distributed in the hall is 30 pages. (The number of pages on the website varies slightly due to a different layout program.) This edition has 284 headlines.

Prayer updates

In the March 25 bulletin, we mentioned that **Cindy Martin** of Lindale had been diagnosed with lymphoma. In the April 1 bulletin, we explained her treatment schedule. At that time, we said: “She had two cycles of treatment in Houston—11 days in Houston for each treatment with five days of it being intense treatment while there, and then 12 days at home. She is scheduled for four more cycles of the same schedule.” On Monday, she mentioned that she has one more of those original cycles left—scheduled in Houston on June 5. Since that original report, the doctor has added two more shorter cycles—that will take her into July.

Angela Dunnam is scheduled to see a radiation specialist on Monday and an oncologist on Wednesday. On Monday, she is expected to hear if a proposed schedule of radiation therapy (five times a week for four weeks) is confirmed.

On Sunday, **Jean Benedict** was admitted into Good Shepherd Hospital in Longview and diagnosed with pneumonia in her left lung and probable congestive heart failure. After the doctor removed a large amount of fluid, she began feeling better. She went home on Thursday. She may stay home today to rebuild her stamina.

On Friday, **Gary Wilson** was transferred back to Tyler. (His Tyler address is 6589 Oak Hill Blvd., Building 3.)

On Thursday, **Marcia Chambers** had a doctor appointment and reports that her recovery from the recent surgery is going well. She is expecting to stay home from church today but expects to be attending again next Saturday. She thanks you for the cards and prayers.

On Friday, May 26, **Linda Cartwright** went to a doctor due to swelling around her right eye and much of the right side of her face. The diagnosis was allergy, not infection.

New prayer requests

Mickey Voyce was diagnosed with covid.

Joshua Voyce had a tooth extraction and other dental work done.

On Friday, **Kate Vincent** wondered if she had a UTI.

Doris Cole of Oregon spent four days in a hospital due to heart issues.

Jarrett Van Curen (ag teacher at Big Sandy) recently had brain-tumor surgery.

Joanne Koeneke of Big Sandy has been dealing with mobility issues.

Maggie Blood of Big Sandy has been dealing with painful sciatic pain.

Denise Giles of Big Sandy was dealing with shoulder pain.

Kathy Murray of Gladewater is recovering from surgery (damaged shoulder).

Clarence Washington of Baton Rouge, La., died on May 26. Please remember his wife, **Lavada**, and the rest of the family in your prayers.

Doris Tuel of Gilmer (mother of **Ronnie Tuel**) died on May 26. Please remember the family in your prayers.

John Ritenbaugh of Lancaster, S.C. (founder of the Church of the Great God who was friendly and polite toward our congregation), died on May 28. Please remember the family in your prayers.

Linda Power of Tyler (aunt of **Martha McIver**) died on May 28. Please remember the family in your prayers.

Connor Oney of Quinlan (17-year-old second cousin of **Martha McIver**) was discovered as a drowning victim on May 31. Mrs. McIver learned of his death just hours after the funeral of her aunt (mentioned above). Please remember the family in your prayers.

“Parable of the Sower—Part 1”

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 3, 2023.

By Dave Havir

BIG SANDY, Texas—At our Bible study on Wednesday night, I began a four-part series about the parable of the sower (which was given in Matthew 13:3-9 and explained in Matthew 13:18-23).

Let’s look at the first lesson in the parable.

Birds devoured the seeds

Matthew 13:4—“And as he sowed, some seed fell by the wayside; and the birds came and devoured them.”

Matthew 13:19—“When anyone hears the word of the kingdom, and does not understand it, then the wicked one comes and snatches away what was sown in his heart. This is he who received seed by the wayside.”

Father does the calling

John 6:44—The Son of God said: “No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him.”

1 Timothy 2:5-6—“For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus, who gave Himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time.”

God has a timetable

1 Corinthians 15:23—“But each one in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, afterward those who are Christ’s at His coming.”

■ Revelation 20:6—There is a first resurrection.

■ Revelation 20:11-12—There is a later time of judgment—after people have the opportunity to understand truth that had not been available to them.

Judgment based on understanding

■ Luke 12:47—If a servant is aware of the master’s will and didn’t do according to that will, he shall be beaten with many stripes.

■ Luke 12:48—If a servant not know the master’s will and still did things worthy of stripes, he shall only be beaten with a few stripes.

■ John 12:47—If anyone hears the words of the Son of God and does not believe (understand), the Son of God does not judge him.

■ John 12:48—If anyone rejects the words of the Son of God (having understood them), the words of the Son of God will judge him.

Who snatches?

■ John 8:44—The devil was a murderer and a liar from the beginning.

■ Genesis 3:1-5—The serpent interjected doubt and outright lied.

■ Genesis 4:8—The devil influenced Cain to kill Abel.

■ 2 Corinthians 4:3-4—The god of this world has blinded the eyes of those who do not believe.

■ 2 Corinthians 11:13-15—Satan transformed himself into an angel of light.

■ Ephesians 2:2-3—The prince of the power of the air influences the desires of the flesh and the wrath of life.

■ Revelation 12:7-9—The devil and his angels deceive the whole world.

■ Revelation 13:13-14—A beast (who looks like a lamb, but speaks like a dragon) will deceive those who dwell on the earth.

Temptations of the Son of God

In Matthew 4:1-11, Bible students read about how the devil sought to tempt the Son of God. The devil presented three challenges.

■ Matthew 4:3—The tempter said: If you are the Son of God (attempting to manipulate Him), do what I say (attempting to control).

■ Matthew 4:6—The tempter said: If you

are the Son of God (attempting to manipulate Him), do what I say (attempting to control).

■ Matthew 4:8-9—The tempter offered the Son of God all the kingdoms of this world.

What was his sales pitch?

Consider the devil's sales pitch for the third temptation.

■ Was the tempter trying to get the Son of God to grab power? (This was a lust that would have appealed to the devil.)

■ Was the tempter trying to get the Son of God to avoid suffering? (This was a lust that would have appealed to the devil.)

■ Was the tempter trying to sell the idea of the Son of God sparing the world from suffering? (Although this was not the nature of the devil, he would have been alert enough to see how this could have appealed to the kind nature of the Son of God.)

Two powerful blessings

In 1 Corinthians 2:11, we read about two powerful blessings.

■ People know the things of life by the spirit of man.

■ People know the things of God by the Spirit of God.

Thought with a twist

A famous motivational speaker quoted a famous line to an auditorium full of students: "Shoot for the moon. Even if you miss, you will land among the stars."

An eighth-grade student replied: "Sir, I know that you are trying to encourage us, but your quote doesn't help us."

The speaker went on to say: "People need to formulate goals and persevere in accomplishing those goals."

The eighth-grader replied: "Oh, I understand what you were trying to do."

The speaker asked: "Well, what's the problem?"

The student went on to say: "The moon is barely a quarter of a million miles away—about three days' travel time. Whereas the stars are light years away from Earth. The closest, Proxima Centauri, is 4.25 light years away. It would have taken NASA's Voyager 1 over 73,000 years to get there. So, if you shoot for the moon and miss, you're just plain out of luck."