

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Church of God Big Sandy

ChurchofGodBigSandy.com

Nov. 18, 2023 • 1:00 p.m. • Sunset 5:17

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 Neil McIver

Pianist Dixon Cartwright

Scripture reading Luke 17:11–19

Sermon Dave Havir

Quick takes

1. Big Sandy communitywide celebration of Thanksgiving—You are invited to the annual communitywide celebration of Thanksgiving.
 - Sunday, Nov. 19
 - Civic Center in Big Sandy
 - 5:00 p.m.
 - Shirley West will be speaking
 - Amy Case will be singing
 - A reception in the foyer will follow
2. No Wednesday-night Bible study—No Wednesday-night Bible study on Nov. 22.
3. Shirley Spearman's Thanksgiving invitation—Many months ago, Shirley Spearman arranged with Dave Havir to have a family meal in the building on Thanksgiving Day. Last week at the church service, she passed along the message from her son Chris that the family is offering a meal to anyone in the congregation.

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

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| ■ Mickey Ashcraft | ■ Ruth Roe |
| ■ Becky Bonilla | ■ Ronny Shirley |
| ■ Angela Dunnam | ■ Elaine Townsend |
| ■ Timberly Dunnam | ■ Mickey Voyce |
| ■ Annette Payne | ■ Donna Weese |
5. Edifying the Body—This week's article is "Six Surprising Biblical Stories of Gratitude" by Lisa Appelo.
6. Among Friends—This week's article is "God's Deliverance Through Coping" by Dave Havir.
7. Eye on the World—323 headlines and two articles.

Prayer updates

Gary Wilson has been dealing with various trials over the past weeks. First, he has been trying to firm up his finances. (He has been dealing since June with seeking to confirm his pension.) Second, he has been trying to find a place to live after he was dismissed from rehab. (**Lisa Smith** has been very helpful to him, and they located a house to rent in Lindale.) Third, he has continued to explore options to improve his health. (He is currently seeking to get hyperbaric treatment at a facility in Louisiana.) Thank you for your continued prayers.

Linda Avey reports that she is feeling stronger. She is scheduled to see her kidney doctor on Nov. 27. She appreciates your prayers.

In the Oct. 14 bulletin, we mentioned that **Nancy Amburgey** was feeling dizzy (the aftereffects of a probable light stroke). Although she has been feeling better, please remember her in your prayers.

Becky Bonilla (who has not been able to attend our church service since the Feast) reports that she continues to lack energy. She also reports that her rotator cuff (which she hurt a year ago) is causing her some problems. She wonders if arthritis is now involved. She keeps in touch with people, but she misses attending church.

In the July 22 bulletin, we mentioned that **Mareshia Garret** (daughter of **Stan** and **Roxanna West**) had her first chemotherapy treatment. Here are excerpts from an update on Thursday by Mr. West: "Mareshia has had severe side effects from chemotherapy. She spent a week in the hospital with low oxygen, low blood pressure and low hemoglobin. She received two units of blood and went home a few days ago. She is scheduled for two more chemotherapy treatments and then major surgery at the end of December." Here is another update from Mr. West on Friday: "Mareshia's doctor postponed this month's chemotherapy, as it has been too much for her. She is feeling better and eating better. Thanks to all for the prayers."

In the Sept. 16 bulletin, we mentioned that **Mickey Voyce** ended a hospital stay and went briefly to a rehab facility. She reports that she is continuing to mend and appreciates your prayers.

New prayer requests

After **Ruth Roe** was anointed last Sunday for her painful knee, she began to feel better. As her son **Tim** described it: “She was feeling so much better—which apparently led to her overdoing it on Sunday and Monday. On Monday, Mom fell and was discovered on the floor by a granddaughter.” She went to a hospital, was diagnosed with a cracked femur and had surgery.

Although we have not mentioned it in the bulletin, many of you have been aware that **Bea Gusner** has been dealing with breathing problems for a while. She went to a doctor on Tuesday, Nov. 7, but she did not find that experience to be helpful. She is now scheduled to see a highly recommended specialist on Nov. 29—and she is optimistic about that visit. Of course, her main focus is receiving the prayers that you (her friends) offer on her behalf.

On Thursday, **Dave McLearn** visited his heart doctor. Here are excerpts of his report: “I was diagnosed with a typical atrial flutter. Apparently, electrical nodes in my upper-left chamber are running amok. On the 27th, I will be getting a TEE cardioversion—which is a transesophageal echocardiogram (where they go through the mouth to look at the back side of my heart). This is a stopgap measure until they can do a cardio ablation in March.”

Anna McIver (who has had ear pain for weeks) was diagnosed with a ruptured eardrum. She is currently on antibiotics. She appreciates your prayers.

Stan and **Roxanna West** request prayers for their daughter **Brandi**, who is dealing with a kidney stone and infection.

Martha McIver is requesting prayer for **Ron Hehr** (her brother-in-law). Following are excerpts of a report: “He had surgery on his ankle in June 2022. They had to put in pins and basically rebuild his ankle. The wound never healed properly, and it turned out that he was allergic to the internal stitches. He has since had several surgeries to clean out the infection, and, with the sixth surgery two weeks ago, they had to also do more internal repair work. Now they believe that he is also allergic to the new stitches from the last surgery. The wound has now been open for a year and a half. Please pray for complete restoration and healing of his foot and ankle.”

Ronny Shirley reported that he got covid—after receiving a cluster of vaccines (flu vaccine, covid vaccine and pneumonia vaccine). He appreciates your prayers.

Frank Canepa of Flagstaff, Ariz., is dealing with a badly swollen hand.

Jerry Chalmers of Huntsville (who has long-standing health challenges) was diagnosed with covid. Since he is presently in a nursing home, he is considered high risk.

“God’s Deliverance Through Coping”

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 Nov. 18, 2023.

By Dave Havir

BIG SANDY, Texas—At our Bible study on Wednesday night, I continued with a five-part series about God’s deliverance. I love talking about this subject.

In 2009, I gave a similar series in consecutive Bible studies. In 2020, I gave a similar series in consecutive sermons. Although the five main concepts remained the same, those presentations used a variety of different verses from the Bible.

Foundational verse

This series is based upon 1 Corinthians 10:13—stressing how God is faithful.

■ God will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able.

■ God will make a way of escape.

■ God will make you able to bear it.

Teaching us to cope

Part 5 of this series discusses “Escape Through Coping.”

My paradigm for dealing with life’s struggles is to understand that God is a perfect Father who loves His children. He helps us to cope. And He teaches us how to cope.

Four common-sense concepts

I organized the presentation within four common-sense concepts.

1. The Heavenly Father begins with foundational love.

2. The Heavenly Father teaches—through knowledge and through experience.

3. The Heavenly Father guides through tough situations.

4. The Heavenly Father enjoys watching His children succeed.

Life of Christ and Paul

In this article, I want to examine the four concepts through the life of Jesus Christ and the life of the apostle Paul.

Christ was the perfect Son, and Paul was the repentant son.

Foundational love

■ 1 John 4:19—We love God, because He first loved us.

■ Matthew 3:17—Christ experienced the Father’s love from the beginning.

■ Galatians 1:13-15—Although Paul said he was set apart from his mother’s womb (verse 15), he was an enemy of the Church of God in the early part of his life (verse 13).

■ Romans 8:14-17—Paul came to view God as his Father.

Teaching knowledge and experience

■ John 8:28—The Son of God taught the information that the Father taught Him.

■ Hebrews 5:7-8—The Son of God learned “obedience” through His experiences.

■ Philippians 3:3-6—Paul was given training in tremendous knowledge.

■ Philippians 3:7-14—Paul grew with added experience.

Guiding through tough situations

■ Matthew 26:37-38—The Son of God talked to His Father as He approached a powerful emotional trial.

■ 2 Corinthians 1:3-10—Paul wrote about the Heavenly Father guiding him through difficult times.

■ 2 Corinthians 12:7-9—Paul wrote about the Heavenly Father guiding him through dealing with his “thorn in the flesh.”

Watching children succeed

■ Matthew 27:46—The Son of God said: “My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?”

■ Philippians 4:11-13—When Paul was learning how to handle success and failure, he concluded: “I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.”

■ Romans 8:31—Paul asked: “If God is for us, who can be against us?”

■ Romans 8:32-39—Paul summarized that nothing can separate us from the love of God (which is in Christ Jesus our Lord).