

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Church of God Big Sandy

ChurchofGodBigSandy.com

Jan. 4, 2025 • 1:00 p.m. • Sunset 5:27

Bible studies

Interactive study—1:00 p.m. Daniel Hammons

Presentation study—2:00 Daniel Hammons
(also transmitted live)

Order of service—3:00 p.m.

Song leader Reg Killingley

Pianist Dixon Cartwright

Scripture reading Leviticus 25:1–8

Sermon Neil McIver

Quick takes

1. Pastor's travel—Today, Dave Havar is giving two presentations in Huntsville. (On Thursday, the congregation in Kansas City postponed his scheduled trip there due to weather. Members there asked him to go there in two weeks. Since the speaking schedule here was already established, Mr. Havar contacted the congregation in Huntsville to see if his presence would be a benefit to them this weekend. They eagerly accepted. Mr. Havar tries to go down to Huntsville three or four times a year.)
2. Dominoes tomorrow—There will be dominoes tomorrow at 11:00 a.m. We get together for fellowship and food.
3. Games, puzzles or just talking—Anyone who doesn't want to play dominoes is free to join the brethren who gather in the building for dominoes on Sunday morning.
 - Arrange for another game (like uno)
 - Arrange to meet someone to play chess or checkers
 - Arrange to work on a puzzle with a friend
 - Or simply come to talk
 - Feel free to add to the food that is brought

4. Wednesday-night Bible study—Jan. 8 at 7:00
5. Edifying the Body—This week's article is "10 Resolutions That Can Add Years to Your Life" by Lynn C. Allison.
6. Among Friends—This week's article is "A Ray of Light in a Dark World" by Dave Havir.
7. Eye on the World—Not finished at printing deadline.

Prayer updates

Gloria Hoppe had another rough week with another visit to an ER. But on Wednesday, she reported: "Basic update. 1. Covid—gone. 2. Lab report—glowing. 3. Extreme nausea—gone. 4. Strength—practically zilch. 5. Flu—still have flu-B, but better. Thank you to everyone for your prayers and expressions of concern. I think I am on the fast track now to actually becoming human again. Civil? Well, let's not push it. But at least human. To our Heavenly Father be the glory."

On Tuesday, **Stan West** gave the following report about his mother (**Shirley West**): "My mother was moved to Pine Tree Lodge today. She is still considered contagious for a couple more days, so we recommend no visitors until that is lifted. The length of her stay there will be determined by the clinical results and insurance. She remains very weak, but isn't in pain."

In previous bulletins, we mentioned that **Bea Gusner** was having difficulty breathing. She continues to deal with that challenge. In the Nov. 23 bulletin, we mentioned that Mrs. Gusner received a two-wire pacemaker device in 2017 and had been having discussions about the possibility of upgrading to a three-wire device. In the Dec. 7 bulletin, we mentioned that her family wants her to move near them in High Point, N.C. Doctors recommended that she upgrade the pacemaker after her move. On one hand, the relocation is moving swiftly. (Both her present home in Longview and her new home in North Carolina are under contract.) On the other hand, the relocation is mired in physical packing. She is going through files, sorting and packing. Let's find out if there are ways that some of us can help her. (Although Mrs. Gusner believes that God is opening doors for her move, she has expressed how much she will miss our congregation. **Dave Havir** told her: "You may think I am an ornery type of fellow, but I believe that you are going to miss me." She acknowledged that she is going to miss many people here.)

In the Aug. 10 bulletin, we mentioned that **Pam Kimmons** (of Brookhaven, Miss.) was diagnosed with "pancreatic cancer estimated at stage 3." She and **Anthony** thank you for continued prayers.

On Thursday, **Donna Weese** had cataract surgery on her right eye. She is scheduled for cataract surgery on her left eye on Jan. 9.

Ramon Coleman of Kansas City reported that the service celebrating the life of his wife (**Kate**, who died on Dec. 10) was postponed from Jan. 5 until Jan. 19. The event is scheduled to have a few recollections of her life, a lot of fellowship and plenty of desserts. The family requests the joy of your company in Kate's favorite colors, red and pink.

New prayer requests

Earlier in the week, **Charis Kennebeck** reported that she recently had quite a bit of congestion and a sore throat and was lethargic. Because of businesses being closed for the holidays, she didn't have to miss work. She is feeling better and thanks all who were aware and prayed for her.

On Thursday night, **Freddie Foy** of Huntsville was extremely dehydrated and taken to an ER. He was admitted and began to feel better.

Ron Elsinger of Clinton, Tenn., died on Dec. 25. Please remember his wife, **Karen**, and the rest of the family in your prayers.

Barbara Jean Ware of Arkansas (mother of **Rocky Ware**) died on Dec. 28. Please remember the family in your prayers.

Thank you to the Cartwrights

Dave Havir wanted to share a message that Stan West wrote to Dixon and Linda Cartwright celebrating their 54th wedding anniversary on Dec. 30. Mr. West wrote: "Congratulations. A life of blessings especially for the Cartwrights and their family, but also for all of us! We continue to benefit from their service and extraordinary talent. A blessing to be counted on a daily basis for those of us in the congregation. Thank you, Dixon and Linda."

Synopsis of Dec. 29 board meeting

- In the treasurer's report, Neil Mclver reviewed the portfolio report provided by our investor. We are blessed that our interest money is funding much of our budget.
- Some of the specific items that board members reviewed in the 2024 budget were insurance and the vehicle purchased for the pastor.
- Daniel Hammons mentioned a suggestion to upgrade AV equipment. (At that point, Dave Havir reminded the board that Bill Crow in the Houston congregation has offered to donate some quality equipment to our congregation.)
- Michael Bald gave a building manager's report. One of the items was the church mower.
- Dave Havir gave a pastor's report. He asked Stephanie Hammons to give comments about the congregation possibly using the building as a venue for Christian entertainment. Carol O'Brien talked about the possibility of using the building for a Dave Ramsey financial seminar. Bernice Burson recommended that our congregation provide information about our church at the Big Sandy Welcome Center. Mr. Havir presented his 2024 report about the speakers (from the congregation and guest speakers) who served this year.

“A Ray of Light in a Dark World”

This article is from “Among Friends” of the Church of God’s Big Sandy’s website (churchofgodbig sandy.com). It was posted for the weekend of Jan. 4, 2025.

By Dave Havir

BIG SANDY, Texas—At our Bible on Wednesday night, I did not give a presentation that was part of a series. It was a single presentation titled “A Ray of Light in a Dark World.” As you will see, the purpose of the presentation (and this article) is to encourage friends to focus upon being a simple light to help people.

“Let there be light”

It should come as no surprise that light was critical to the creation of the earth.

■ Genesis 1:1—In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.

■ Genesis 1:2—Darkness was on the face of the earth.

■ Genesis 1:3—God said: “Let there be light” and there was light.

■ Genesis 1:4-5—God divided the light from the darkness—calling the light “day” and calling the darkness “night.”

■ Genesis 1:11-18—God made two lights—calling the greater light for the day and the lesser light to rule the night.

Bear witness to light

■ John 1:4—In the Word was life, and the life was the light of men.

■ John 1:5—The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it.

■ John 1:6—There was a man sent from God, whose name was John.

■ John 1:7—This man came for a witness to bear witness of the Light.

■ John 1:8-9—John was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light.

Walk in light

■ 1 John 1:5—This is the message that we have heard and do declare: “God is light and in Him is no darkness at all.”

■ 1 John 1:6—“If we say that we have fellowship with Him and walk in darkness, we live a lie and do not practice the truth.”

■ 1 John 1:7—“If we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with

one another and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.”

Love God and love neighbor

■ Mark 12:28—“Which is the first commandment of all?”

■ Mark 12:30—You shall love your God with all your heart, soul, mind and strength.

■ Mark 12:31—You shall love your neighbor as yourself.

■ Mark 12:31—There is no other commandment greater than these.

Avoid walking in darkness

The following words do not undo loving God with heart, soul, mind and strength. But the following words stress the need to be loving people.

■ 1 John 2:9—“He who says he is in the light and hates his brother is in darkness.”

■ 1 John 2:10—“He who loves his brother abides in the light, and there is no cause for stumbling.”

■ 1 John 2:11—“He who hates his brother is in darkness and walks in darkness and does not know where he is going—because the darkness has blinded his eyes.”

Judgment is based upon understanding

The following words remind us about God’s criteria for judgment—and thus should influence us to be kinder toward other people.

■ John 12:46—The Son of God said: “I have come as a light into the world, that whoever believes in Me should not abide in darkness.”

■ John 12:47—The Son of God is not judging those who do not understand.

■ John 12:48—The Son of God is judging those who reject His words—after they understand His words.

We sure like the fact that the Father and Son judge us only when we know better. Maybe we could find it within our heart to be kinder toward those who really don’t understand.