

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Church of God Big Sandy

ChurchofGodBigSandy.com

Feb. 1, 2025 • 1:00 p.m. • Sunset 5:52

Bible studies

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

Presentation study—2:00 Wynn Skelton
(also transmitted live)

Order of service—3:00 p.m.

Song leader Wynn Skelton

Pianist Dixon Cartwright

Scripture reading Philippians 2:1–13

Sermon Wynn Skelton

Quick takes

1. Pastor's travel—Today, Dave Havir is speaking at a sister congregation in the Waco area.
2. Dominoes tomorrow—There will be dominoes tomorrow at 11:00 a.m.
3. Wednesday-night Bible study—Feb. 5 at 7:00. (We are pleased to have Wynn Skelton continue his series about angels.)
4. *Musical Memories*—The Big Sandy Museum presents *Musical Memories* on Saturday evening, Feb. 8.
 - Big Sandy Museum fundraiser
 - Saturday, Feb. 8
 - 7:00–9:00 p.m.—doors open at 6:30
 - Church of God Big Sandy building
 - Door prizes
 - After the program—light refreshments

5. Invitation to widows—If any widows want to attend the musical event, please let Dave Havir know. He would like to buy your ticket to the museum event.
6. Chamber of Commerce Banquet—The 39th annual Big Sandy Chamber of Commerce Banquet is scheduled for Thursday, Feb. 13.
 - Big Sandy Chamber of Commerce Banquet
 - Thursday, Feb. 13
 - 6:00 p.m.
 - Civic Center—612 N. Tyler St.
 - Meal by Hill Farms (formerly Longhorn Smokehouse)
7. Invitation to widows—If any widows want to attend the Chamber of Commerce Banquet, please let Dave Havir know. He would like to buy a meal for you at the event.
8. Board meeting—There is a board meeting scheduled for Sunday, Feb. 23, at 4:00 p.m. All are welcome.
9. Edifying the Body—This week’s article is “Lifting You Up to God” by Kimberly Henderson.
10. Among Friends—This week’s article is “Trust the Lord—Psalm 40” by Dave Havir.
11. Eye on the World—Four articles and 238 headlines.

Pastor’s year-end letter

At the end of every year, the pastor sends a thank-you letter with a donation record of what people send to our congregation. (For the record, our system is set up so that Mr. Havir does not see the donations that people make to our congregation.) Following is a copy of the contents of the letter sent out at the end of 2024.

Jan. 27, 2025

Dear Friends,

Another year (2024) has come to an end. The purpose of this letter is twofold. It is my desire to thank you and also to say a few encouraging words.

Thank you for your friendship toward us—which includes your prayers, your acts of kindness and your financial support (your cheerful giving) during this past calendar year.

Even though many traumatic events occurred during the calendar year, we can ask ourselves: How did the disciples of Christ prosper during 2024?

One answer would be: You chose to stay connected with our Heavenly Father and His Son.

- 1 Corinthians 15:24–28—The Son of God reigns supreme, as He directs all of mankind to submit to the Father.

- 1 Timothy 4:10—We trust in the living God, who is the Savior of all men.
- 2 Timothy 1:8–10—Salvation has been revealed by the appearing of our Savior Jesus Christ.

In case you don't know this, our Wednesday-night Bible study is a prime example about how important we view our friends around the country. When I gave 47 presentations this year on Wednesday evenings, the weekly midweek study was given primarily to our friends not physically in our church hall. It is true that some of the local members attended in the building or watched online in the comfort of their home. But we had many friends (who live across the United States) who were watching or listening every week. When I spoke, I was thinking about you.

Am I suggesting that you must hear those studies? Not at all. You are mature Bible students who have the freedom to determine the subjects that help you the most. But it is important to me that you realize that we remember to think about you.

May God bless you with peace, joy and love.

Your friend in the Lord,
Dave Havir

Scriptures to consider

Luke 9:49-50—"Now John answered and said, 'Master, we saw someone casting out demons in Your name, and we forbade him because he does not follow with us.' But Jesus said to him, 'Do not forbid him, for he who is not against us is on our side.'"

James 4:17—"To him who knows to do good and does not do it, to him it is sin."

"Lifting You Up to God"

This article is from "Edifying the Body" of the Church of God's Big Sandy's website (churchofgodbigandy.com). It was posted for the weekend of Feb. 1, 2025.

By Kimberly Henderson

MATTHEWS, N.C.—Many people often show kindness to their friends by seeking to pull them out of terrible situations. That determination to display kindness is certainly understandable.

But there is another way for people to help friends in terrible situations. There is another way for friends to show kindness.

When you remember the following people in the Bible, consider another way to help them.

- I would have pulled Joseph out. Out of that pit. Out of that prison. Out of that pain. And I would have cheated na-

tions out of the one God would use to deliver them from famine.

- I would have pulled David out.

Out of Saul's spear-throwing presence. Out of the caves he hid away in. Out of the pain of rejection. And I would have cheated Israel out of a God-hearted king.

- I would have pulled Esther out.

Out of being snatched from her only family. Out of being placed in a position she never asked for. Out of the path of a vicious, power-hungry foe. And I would have cheated a people out of the woman God would use to save their very lives.

- And I would have pulled Jesus off. Off of the cross. Off of the road that led

to suffering and pain. Off of the path that would mean nakedness and beatings, nails and thorns. And I would have cheated the entire world out of a Savior. Out of salvation. Out of an eternity filled with no more suffering and no more pain.

■ And, O friend, I want to pull you out.

I want to change your path. I want to stop your pain. But right now I know I would be wrong. I would be out of line. I would be cheating you and cheating the world out of so much good. Because God knows. He knows the good this pain will produce. He knows the beauty this hardship will grow. He's watching over you and keeping you even in the midst of this. And He's prom-

ising you that you can trust Him. Even when it all feels like more than you can bear.

■ So, instead of trying to pull you out, I'm lifting you up.

I'm kneeling before the Father and I'm asking Him to give you strength. To give you hope. I'm asking Him to protect you and to move you when the time is right. I'm asking Him to help you stay prayerful and discerning.

I'm asking Him how I can best love you and be a help to you. And I'm believing He's going to use your life in powerful and beautiful ways. Ways that will leave your heart grateful and humbly thankful for this road you've been on.

"Trust the Lord – Psalm 40"

This article is from "Among Friends" of the Church of God's Big Sandy's website (churchofgodbigandy.com). It was posted for the weekend of Feb. 1, 2025.

By Dave Havir

BIG SANDY, Texas—Have you ever spent time looking up all the scriptures in the Bible that talk about trusting the Lord? This weekend, I want to remind you about a passage in the book of Psalms that eloquently talks about trusting the Lord.

Notice the 17 verses in Psalm 40.

Psalm 40:1-3—"I waited patiently for the LORD; and He inclined to me, and heard my cry. He also brought me up out of a horrible pit, out of the miry clay, and set my feet upon a rock, and established my steps. He has put a new song in my mouth—praise to our God; many will see it and fear, and will trust in the LORD."

Psalm 40:4-5—"Blessed is that man who makes the LORD his trust, and does not respect the proud, nor such as turn aside to lies. Many, O LORD my God, are Your wonderful works which You have done; and Your thoughts toward us cannot be recounted to You in order; if I would declare and speak of them, they are more than can be numbered."

Psalm 40:6-8—"Sacrifice and offering You did not desire; my ears You have opened. Burnt offering and sin offering You did not require. Then I said, 'Behold, I come; in the scroll of the book it is written of me. I delight to do Your will, O my God, and Your law is within my heart.'"

Psalm 40:9-10—"I have proclaimed the good news of righteousness in the great assembly; indeed, I do not restrain my lips, O LORD, You Yourself know. I have not hidden Your righteousness within my heart; I have declared Your faithfulness and Your salvation; I have not concealed Your lovingkindness and Your truth from the great assembly."

Psalm 40:11-12—"Do not withhold Your tender mercies from me, O LORD; let Your lovingkindness and Your truth continually preserve me. For innumerable evils have surrounded me; my iniquities have overtaken me, so that I am not able to look up; they are more than the hairs of my head; therefore my heart fails me."

Psalm 40:13-15—"Be pleased, O LORD, to deliver me; O LORD, make haste to help me! Let them be ashamed and brought to mutual confusion who seek to destroy my life; let them be driven backward and brought to dishonor who wish me evil. Let them be confounded because of their shame, who say to me, 'Aha, aha!'"

Psalm 40:16-17—"Let all those who seek You rejoice and be glad in You; let such as love Your salvation say continually, 'The LORD be magnified!' But I am poor and needy; yet the LORD thinks upon me. You are my help and my deliverer; do not delay, O my God."