

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## Church of God Big Sandy

ChurchofGodBigSandy.com

Feb. 22, 2025 • 1:00 p.m. • Sunset 6:11

### 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 . . . . . Reg Killingley

Pianist . . . . . Recorded music

Scripture reading . . . . . 1 Samuel 26:17–25

Sermon . . . . . Morris Foster

### Quick takes

1. Dominoes tomorrow—If you are interested in playing dominoes tomorrow at 11:00 a.m., please let Sue Jones know.
2. Board meeting tomorrow—There is a board meeting scheduled for Sunday, Feb. 23, at 4:00 p.m. All are welcome.
3. Wednesday-night Bible study—Feb. 26 at 7:00.
4. Edifying the Body—This week's article is "Finally, Leadership" by Star Parker.
5. Among Friends—This week's article is "Victory Over the Enemy—Part 1" by Dave Havir.
6. Eye on the World—Not finished at bulletin deadline
7. Please remember to pray for the following people who are not able to regularly attend our church service.

- Mickey Ashcraft
- Judy Biggs
- Angela Dunnam
- Timberly Dunnam
- Ruth Roe

- Ronnie Shirley
- Elaine Townsend
- Mickey Voyce
- Donna Weese
- Shirley West

## Prayer updates

Please remember **Gary Wilson** as he deals with swollen legs.

Please remember **Lisa Smith** as she continues to manage a hectic schedule in her efforts to help **Gary Wilson** after he suffered his stroke. (Also, please remember Mrs. Smith today on the third-year anniversary of the death of her little granddaughter.)

Please remember **Margaret Pitre** (mother of **Lisa Smith**), who lives in Louisiana but spends a lot of time in East Texas helping her daughter. (There has been talk that she might move over here.) Also, we learned this week that Mrs. Pitre is dealing with back pain—which started when she picked up a bucket of water on a cold day in Louisiana a few weeks ago. She appreciates your prayers.

Since **Shirley West** has not been strong enough to walk on her own, she is still basically confined to her bed through most of the day. She appreciates your prayers.

In the Jan. 18 and Jan. 25 bulletins, we mentioned that **Shirley Spearman** was dealing with high blood pressure. She reported that it hasn't improved much. She mentioned that she is scheduled for an MRI on Tuesday. (Since she was scheduled for a closed MRI and is now seeking an open MRI, it is possible that the appointment may be postponed.)

In last week's bulletin, we mentioned that **Martha McIver** was diagnosed with norovirus. She reports that she is feeling much better and is past the contagious stage.

**Ronnie Shirley** (age 81) gave a report. He mentioned that the doctors say he still has cancer (rectal cancer), but they say it is under control. He watches our church service online and sends his greetings to everyone.

In the Dec. 21 bulletin, we mentioned that **Dianna Payne** of Gladewater (sister of **Roxanna West**) was waiting for a lung transplant. She is still patiently waiting.

## New prayer requests

**Celia Caudill** of Dallas is consulting with a dermatologist about her struggle with vitiligo (a skin disorder).

**Monte Allen** of Big Sandy recently fell and suffered a broken wrist.

**Ray Fisk** of Big Sandy deals with a circulation difficulty in his leg.

On Thursday, **Lucy Richmond** of Big Sandy gave **Dave Havir** a report about a horrible experience that she had in 2024 that is causing her health challenges. Her problems began on Jan. 25, 2024, when men broke into her house and beat her unconscious. When she awoke, she lay on the floor for three days. While she hasn't fully recovered from the episode, symptoms arose more recently. In November 2024, she began losing feeling in her legs. Her neck sometimes hurts. Yesterday, home-health personnel were scheduled to visit her home to X-ray her arm. She has an appointment with a doctor on March 4. She thanks the congregation for our prayers.

On Thursday, **Dawn Patton** of Big Sandy gave **Dave Havar** a report about a recent fall. She fell on Jan. 5 and had major surgery on Jan. 6. She fractured her right leg in seven places, and a large plate was put into her leg. She went into rehab for 11 days. She is scheduled to be home for six more weeks. With the passing of time, the doctors will better diagnose her right foot, which was also damaged. After doctors deal with her foot, they will diagnose her right knee, which was also damaged. If the knee does not bend properly on its own, a doctor discussed possibly doing a “forced manipulation” to get it to bend properly. She thanks the congregation for our prayers.

**Michael Germano** of Mint Hill, N.C., died on Feb. 12. Please remember his wife, **Brenda**, and the rest of the family in your prayers.

### Thoughts for the week

“Some things are believed because they are demonstrably true. But many other things are believed simply because they have been asserted repeatedly—and repetition has been accepted as a substitute for evidence.”

“Open-ended demands are a mandate for ever-expanding government bureaucracies with ever-expanding budgets and powers.”

“I have never understood why it is ‘greed’ to want to keep the money you have earned, but not greed to want to take somebody else’s money.”

“It is hard to imagine a more stupid or more dangerous way of making decisions than by putting those decisions in the hands of people who pay no price for being wrong.”

“When people get used to preferential treatment, equal treatment seems like discrimination.”

### “Victory Over the Enemy—Part 1”

This article is from the “Among Friends” section of the Church of God Big Sandy’s website ([churchofgodbig sandy.com](http://churchofgodbig sandy.com)). It was posted for the weekend of Feb. 22, 2025.

#### By Dave Havar

**B**IG SANDY, Texas—At our Bible study on Wednesday night, I gave a presentation titled “Victory Over the Enemy—Part 1.” I thanked Wynn Skelton for giving his Bible-study series about angels. (At one point, Wynn talked about giving only a three-part series—but I encouraged him to expand the series, and I was pleased that he gave five parts.)

Weeks ago, I started talking about a related subject while he was continuing his series.

On Saturday, Jan. 25, I gave a presenta-

tion titled “The Father and the Son Are Stronger Than the Devil.” I had five points in that presentation, including “Do not underestimate the enemy.”

On Wednesday, Feb. 5, I gave a presentation titled “Don’t Underestimate or Overestimate the Enemy.” I had three points in that presentation, including “Do not underestimate the enemy.”

At last Wednesday’s Bible study, I focused upon it again. (Interestingly enough, I wasn’t able to finish covering all of my intended material.)

## Put your mind at ease

As I began the study, I wanted to put the mind of the audience at ease. Since I was going to be giving important warnings about the enemy, I wanted to quickly remind the audience of God's sovereignty. Although the threat is real, the solution is stronger.

The God of good is much stronger than the enemy who promotes evil.

■ Matthew 18:10—Take heed that you do not despise one of the little ones, because their angels in heaven always see the face of the Father in heaven.

■ Revelation 20:1-3—When it is time for the devil to be bound in the bottomless pit, the Father and the Son send an angel to complete the task.

As I said, the God of good is much stronger than the enemy who promotes evil.

When I prepared for the Bible study, I organized my material to talk about two main concepts—overt danger and subtle danger.

## Overt danger

Since I knew that some children could possibly be listening to my presentation, I deliberately refrained from being graphic in describing the scriptures chosen for the topic. Besides, I really wasn't wanting to scare some of our older audience either. I wanted to use the scriptures to warn our listeners without scaring them.

■ Luke 11:20—The Son of God mentioned that He could cast out demons with the "finger of God." (I preferred to use the word *devils*, which is accurate and considered by many to be less-scary than saying "demons").

■ Luke 11:21—When a strong man guards his palace, his property and possessions are protected.

■ Luke 11:22—When a stronger man comes and overtakes a man, the stronger man takes the protective armor and his possessions.

■ Luke 11:24-26—When an unclean spirit goes out of a person, it often seeks to return to the place where it had been—hoping to bring seven other spirits more wicked than itself.

■ Acts 16:16-18—When a certain slave girl possessed with a spirit of divination (who brought her masters much profit) an-

nnoyed Paul, he commanded that the spirit come out of her.

■ Acts 16:19-24—When her masters saw that the hope of their profit was gone, they dragged Paul to the magistrates to be beaten and thrown into prison.

■ Acts 19:11-14—When some of the itinerant Jewish exorcists saw Paul cast evil spirits out of people, they took it upon themselves to call the name of the Lord Jesus to try the same thing, saying: "We exorcise you by the Jesus whom Paul preaches."

■ Acts 19:15—The evil spirits answered: "I know Jesus and I know Paul, but who are you?"

■ Acts 19:16—The evil spirit jumped onto them and overpowered them, causing them to run out of the house naked and wounded.

■ Acts 19:18—Jews and Greeks heard about it and learned from the experience.

■ Acts 19:19—Many (who practiced sorcery) gathered together to burn their books (valued at 50,000 pieces of silver).

## Subtle danger

As I was preparing to talk about subtle danger, I realized that I had run out of time. I started to make reference to Genesis 3:1-5, but decided that I should wait until the next study to give the material the time that it deserves.

## The solution is stronger

As I was concluding the study, I wanted to again put the mind of the audience at ease. Yes, we just talked about an important warning about the enemy. But I again wanted to remind the audience of God's sovereignty.

The God of good is much stronger than the enemy who promotes evil.

Notice that the devil asked the Son of God if he could "sift" Peter.

■ Luke 22:31—The Lord told Peter that Satan had specifically asked to have access to Peter with the goal of sifting him as wheat.

■ Luke 22:32—Notice that the Lord prayed for Peter.

Please do not underestimate the enemy. Yes, the threat is real—but the solution is stronger. Please realize how you have the victory over the enemy.