

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Church of God Big Sandy

ChurchofGodBigSandy.com

Feb. 13, 2010 • 1:00 p.m. • Sunset 6:02

Service next Sabbath: 1:00 p.m.

Order of service

Song leader	David Havir III
Pianist	Julie Wilkins
First sermon	Ron Feaker
Teen class—Classroom #1	Jeanine Case
Bridges class—Library	Penny Harris
Kids' class—Classroom #2	Diana Havir
Interactive Bible study—Foyer	Bernie Monsalvo
Second sermon	Stan West

Quick takes

1. Interesting fact—Dave Havir was musing about how successfully our congregation has been providing our building for community activities and he decided to count the number of community events during 2009. Counting the regular meetings of the scouts and of the Frontier Girls, we have provided our building more than 70 times in 2009.
2. Interrelating with other congregations—Today, Neil McIver is giving a sermon in Anacoco, La., and Dave Havir is giving a sermon in Prescott Valley, Ariz.
3. Thank you—Thank you to everyone who provided chili for the potluck last Sabbath.
4. Thank you—Thank you to Joe and Barbara Lingle for sharing their slides of Israel with us last Sabbath.
5. Community variety show—There is a community variety show in the building during the evening of Saturday, Feb. 20. If you need tickets to attend, please contact Dave Havir.
6. Scouts' Pinewood Derby—The Pinewood Derby of the scout program sponsored by our congregation is scheduled in our building on Monday, Feb. 22, at 6:30 p.m.

7. Edifying the Body—This week's article is "The Deadly Duo: The Perils of Double-Mindedness" by David F. Maas.
8. Among Friends—This week's article is "Did a Perfect Jesus Christ Avoid Offense?" by Dave Havir.
9. Eye on the World—This week's collection is by Jeanine Case

Wedding invitation

Veronica Hildreth and Craig Miles invite you to their wedding in the building on Sunday, Feb. 28, at 6:30 p.m. Please let Jo Ann Hildreth know if you are planning to attend.

Prayer updates

Loren Edelbach continued to grow weaker this week. A hospital bed was moved into his living room on Wednesday. This situation continues to place stress upon **Ellen**.

James Moran is getting stronger and is now eating regular meals.

Donna Weese continues to struggle with anxiety. Please remember her in your prayers.

Ken Omick of Madison, Wis. (who with his wife, **Arlette**, spends the winters in Texas), was released from the Beacon Hill Hospice in Longview on Monday (three days earlier than anticipated). Although he recently lost 80 pounds, he has recently regained some strength. Here is an excerpt from a report on Tuesday: "The doctors guess is that Ken is in the last stage of prostate cancer, which means it could be years yet before it really gets miserably bad. So things go on as normal. We're all hoping Ken pushes himself to get his strength back and get back to normal."

Here are excerpts from a report on Thursday about **Rhonda George** of Anchorage, Alaska: "Rhonda is off the drugs that were keeping her in a coma, but she is still unconscious. This is her fourth week in the critical care unit. They did another operation on her two nights ago (her third since the stroke) to install a shunt that will drain the fluids from her head. It appears that the swelling has gone down and that she is being a little more responsive."

Marie Welch is making slow progress and is in a rehab facility in Sugar Land.

New prayer requests

Dorothy Jones went to the emergency room at the UT Health Center (north of Tyler) on Saturday evening with extreme pain in her stomach. She was diagnosed with an infection in her colon. She is in Room 506.

Christie Williams of Merced, Calif. (granddaughter of **Kit** and **Elaine Holloway**), was placed in an ICU this week due to dehydration associated with flu. The family appreciates your prayers.

Here are excerpts from a report on Sunday about **Tim Hazelip** of Port Richey, Fla.: “Tim Hazelip [who has battled serious health issues over the past 15 years] now has a very aggressive cancer in his back and down his legs that is very painful. The doctors have done everything for him they can, and are giving him help to manage pain.”

Sheila Maddux of Kingwood, Texas, who has been recovering from cancer for several months, is currently suffering from very high blood pressure (which could be due to a bladder infection).

Here are excerpts concerning **Lisa Fertig** of Wyoming: “Lisa had been having some abdominal pain for several days and went to the doctor to find out the cause. After some blood tests and a CT scan, the doctors believe the pain was due to a ruptured fibroid cyst. While searching the scans they discovered a tumor near her stomach and pancreas. The tumor is believed to be approximately two inches in length, and the doctors believe it to be cancerous.” She is scheduled to have surgery in Denver, Colo., next week.

Burk McNair of San Antonio is scheduled for surgery on Wednesday to install a defibrillator to assist in regulating his heart. The surgery is expected to last for one hour, and Mr. McNair is hoping to stay in the hospital for only one night.

Rene Qualls of Morro Bay, Calif., died on Tuesday. Please remember her family in your prayers.

Bible study on Feb. 10

On Wednesday, Feb. 10, Dave Havar gave a Bible study titled “Foot-washing.”

■ *Some examples of foot-washing—(guests usually washed their own feet)*

Luke 7:44—“. . . I entered your house; you gave Me no water for My feet . . .”

■ *Christ’s famous words about foot-washing*

John 13:14-15—“If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another’s feet. For I have given you an example, that you should do as I have done to you.”

■ *Annual observance*

■ *Way of life*

Matthew 23:11-12—“But he who is greatest among you shall be your servant. And whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.”

“Did a Perfect Jesus Christ Avoid Offense?”

This article is from the “Among Friends” section of the Church of God Big Sandy’s Web site, churchofgodbigandy.com. It was posted for the weekend of Feb. 13–14, 2010.

By Dave Havir

BIG SANDY, Texas—When Paul discussed the subject of avoiding offense in a letter to the believers at Corinth, he made a very direct statement: “Give none offense, neither to the Jews, nor to the Gentiles, nor to the church of God” (1 Corinthians 10:32).

That sounds pretty clear to me: Don’t offend anyone.

Let me ask a question. Is it possible to avoid causing offense to everyone?

Well, if anyone could avoid causing offense, it would be the person who never sinned. Right?

Jesus Christ never sinned, so does that translate into His never offending anyone?

Let’s look at His life.

Not a man-pleaser

First, let’s establish that Jesus’ self-respect was not primarily based upon what people thought of Him.

He regularly made statements that revealed His desire to please His Father in heaven. Some of those words are found in John 4:34, John 5:30, John 6:38, John 8:29 and John 17:4.

Even though He proved His love for people by His actions, He placed His interest in serving the Father above the opinions of people.

Second, let’s acknowledge that Jesus fell out of favor with some people.

■ Many religious people sought to trap Him and accuse Him (Luke 11:53-54; 20:20-38).

■ Many religious leaders arrived at the point in life that they sought to kill Him (Luke 22:2).

It isn’t too hard to determine why Jesus was out of favor with religious people and their leaders. He corrected their brand of religion.

One famous example is when He corrected them for placing the tradition of elders above the commandments of God (Mark 7:1-14). The example He specifically used was the elders extracting money for the temple (the church) when it should have been used for family (the parents).

Popular for a time

Third, let’s accept that Jesus was popular for a time with the multitudes. He served their needs.

■ He healed many (Luke 4:40) and cast out many unclean spirits (verse 41).

■ He raised a widow’s son (Luke 7:11-15) and forgave a prostitute (verses 36-50).

■ He healed many (Luke 9:11) and fed many (verses 12-17).

Two-edged sword

Finally, let’s recognize that Jesus’ actions caused Him to be out of favor with some people and in favor with others.

■ The Pharisees hated that Jesus feasted with publicans and sinners (Luke 5:29-30). Don’t you think that the sinners appreciated Him?

■ The Pharisees didn’t like the way His disciples kept the Sabbath (Luke 6:1-5). Don’t you suppose that His disciples appreciated that He defended them when their actions were described as not being lawful?

■ The Pharisees didn’t like the fact that Jesus healed on the Sabbath (Luke 6:6-10). How do you imagine the man with the healed withered hand felt toward Him?

■ When Jesus healed a woman who had had an infirmity for 18 years (Luke 13:11-13), the ruler of the synagogue answered with indignation (verse 14). Notice the contrast in verse 17.

His adversaries were ashamed, but the people rejoiced.

God and neighbor

If you are a follower of Jesus Christ, it is a fact of life that your obedience will please some people and irritate other people.

Although we should seek to live peaceably with people (Romans 12:18), we can’t be consumed by the accusations of people who say that they are offended by our actions.

Loving God and loving neighbor are more important than all the burnt offerings and sacrifices of the Old Testament system (Mark 12:33).

Those who love God and love neighbor are not far from the Kingdom of God (Mark 12:34).