

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Church of God Big Sandy

ChurchofGodBigSandy.com

May 8, 2010 • 2:00 p.m. • Sunset 8:04

Service next Sabbath: 2:00 p.m.

Order of service

Song leader	.....	Ron Avey
Pianist	.....	Dixon Cartwright
First sermon	.....	Stan West
Teen class—Classroom #1	.....	Jeanine Case
Bridges class—Library	.....	Carol Bald
Kids' class—Classroom #2	.....	Leslie Harroff
Interactive Bible study—Foyer	.....	Bernie Monsalvo
Second sermon	.....	Stan West

Quick takes

1. Interrelating with other congregations—Today, Dave Havir is giving a sermon in Mineral Wells, W.Va. (He is spending a few days with the leadership team that does much work at the Myrtle Beach Feast site.)
2. Thank you—Thank you to Ken and Sharon Burgin and Travis and Candace Self for hosting the camp-out on their property last Saturday evening.
3. Election Committee—Anyone who wants to serve on the committee, please contact J.L. Roden.
4. Nomination process—Members of the congregation are invited to submit a nomination form. The deadline is Saturday, May 29, at 5:00 p.m.
5. Private function in building—There is a private function in the building on Thursday from 11:00 a.m. through 3:00 p.m. Please give them privacy.
6. Day of Pentecost—The congregation will observe the Day of Pentecost on Sunday, May 23. Here is a tentative schedule.
 - 11:00 a.m. Church service
 - 1:00 p.m. Potluck meal
 - 2:15 Seminar

7. Edifying the Body—This week's article is "My Mom Was a Blessing" by Judith Biggs.
8. Among Friends—This week's article is "Do You Love the Law of God?" by Dave Havir.
9. Eye on the World—This week's collection is by Jeanine Case.

Prayer updates

Ellen Edelbach continues to rehab at The Clairmont (3201 N. Fourth St.) in Longview with physical therapy in the mornings from 9:00 a.m. to noon. (In case you want to visit her later in the afternoon, she is in Room 317.)

Melba Evers of Albertville, Ala. (mother of **Jeannie Roden**), went to a doctor on Monday. She and her husband, **John**, will spend a few weeks with a daughter in South Carolina. Then, Mrs. Evers is scheduled to visit the doctor again on June 7. At that time, she may have an EKG and a heart catheterization to determine if she should proceed with open-heart surgery.

Thank you for your prayers for **Sharon Burgin**. Her doctor believes all the cancer was removed. It has not spread. Therefore no further treatment is needed.

Ron Dart was moved to a rehabilitation facility on Thursday. His wife, **Allie**, thanks everyone for the prayers and appreciates your continued support.

Carrol Bryant's health has continued to decline as he battles cancer. Please pray for God's will to be done and that God will provide him and his wife, **Valerie**, peace and comfort.

New prayer requests

Vonda Ouellette was taken to an emergency room on Thursday due to very high blood pressure. She was not admitted to the hospital.

Roland Ouellette has five herniated disks. He is not a candidate for surgery, so doctors plan to inject medication into his back for the pain.

Chad Foster of Longview (grandson of **Betty Foster**) had a colonoscopy.

Jimmie Pierce of the local United congregation was bitten by a snake on Sunday. The first night was miserable for her, but she's feeling better.

Melton McNeely of the local United congregation went to the Mother Frances Hospital in Tyler because of pneumonia. He returned home on Thursday.

Archie Hall of Montague, Calif., died on April 21 following a battle with cancer. Please remember his wife, **Lavern**, and the rest of the family in your prayers.

Emily Walls of Gladewater died May 1 after suffering with Alzheimer's for many years. Please remember her husband, **Don Walls Sr.**, and the rest of the family in your prayers.

Lateef Edalere in the United Kingdom (formerly of Nigeria) died this week. Please remember his wife, **Yvonne**, and the rest of the family in your prayers.

Bible study on May 5

On Wednesday, May 5, David Maas gave a Bible study titled "Absolute Blessing of God's Law."

Ecclesiastes 12:13-14—Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: fear God and keep His commandments, for this is man's all. For God will bring every work into judgment, including every secret thing, whether good or evil.

Psalms 119:142—Your righteousness is an everlasting righteousness, and Your law is truth.

Psalms 119:165—Great peace have those who love Your law, and nothing causes them to stumble.

Psalms 119:169—Let my cry come before You, O LORD; give me understanding according to Your word.

Proverbs 1:2-4—To know wisdom and instruction, to perceive the words of understanding, to receive the instruction of wisdom, justice, judgment, and equity; to give prudence to the simple, to the young man knowledge and discretion.

"Do You Love the Law of God?"

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 May 8-9, 2010.

By Dave Havir

BIG SANDY, Texas—As we approach the observance of the Day of Pentecost, I would like to recommend that you spend a little time reflecting upon the wonderful law of God.

The apostle Paul described the law of God in such glowing terms.

In Romans 7:12, he called the law "holy," "just" and "good."

In Romans 7:14, he said: We know that the law is spiritual.

Of course, we know that God did not expect salvation to come through humans keeping the law. The Creator knew that the weakness was in our flesh. That's why He had to send His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh (Romans 8:3).

We needed the sacrifice of Jesus Christ.

However, just because we needed the sacrifice of Jesus Christ doesn't change the fact that the law is holy, just and good. It is

indeed spiritual.

People in various churches (outside the Church of God and inside the Church of God) allow the precious gift of grace to influence them to underappreciate the beautiful law of God.

When a person correctly recognizes that we are saved by grace, that does not diminish God's law.

In Romans 3:31, Paul asked: Do we make the law void through faith?

In Romans 6:1-2, he asked: Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound?

In Romans 7:7, he asked: Is the law sin?

Paul answered the three questions he posed with the phrase "God forbid" (in the King James version of the Bible).

Notice how some other versions translate the phrase "God forbid."

■ "It is not to be thought of"—The New Testament in the Translation of Monsignor Ronald Knox.

■ “Not at all!”—The New Testament: A Translation in the Language of the People (Charles B. Williams).

■ “That be far from us!”—The Epistles of Paul (W.J. Conybeare).

■ “Of course not!”—The New Testament in Modern English (J.B. Phillips).

■ “May it never!”—The New American Standard Bible: New Testament.

■ “Far be it!”—The Emphasized New Testament: A New Translation (J.B. Rotherham).

■ “Never!”—The New Testament: A New Translation (James Moffatt).

■ “By no means!”—The New Testament: An American Translation (Edgar J. Goodspeed).

■ “Certainly not!”—The New English Bible: New Testament.

■ “Heaven forbid!”—The Twentieth Century New Testament.

As we continually demonstrate a love for God’s law, let’s seek to stay away from the extremes we see around us.

Let’s seek to avoid the approach of the antinomians. Let’s seek to avoid the approach of the legalists.

As I mentioned last week, I hope that we will avoid viewing our observance of the Ten Commandments as a badge of superiority over other people.

Rather, I hope we will view our observance of the Ten Commandments as a blessing to us and to our families.

“My Mom Was a Blessing”

This article is from the “Edifying the Body” section of the Church of God Big Sandy’s Web site, churchofgodbigandy.com. It was posted for the weekend of May 8-9, 2010.

By Judith Biggs

BIG SANDY, Texas—One day in my late 20s I asked a question of a friend: “Why don’t I get into trouble like most people I know?”

You have to understand that people considered me a goody two-shoes. (Goody Two-Shoes was a character in a children’s story in 1934. Goody Two-Shoes was something like Little Lord Fauntleroy, from an 1885 novel by Frances Hodgson Burnett, or like Pollyanna, from a best-selling 1913 novel by Eleanor H. Porter).

To be honest, I was sort of viewing myself the same way.

My friend answered: “Because you believe you will get caught and most people believe they will not.”

Bull’s-eye. So much for believing I was just a little bit better than other people.

Her response got me thinking. Why did I think I would get caught?

Then the answer hit me like a ton of bricks.

Mama had two sets of eyes!

When I was little I wanted to sneak up behind Mama, part her thick brown hair and stare at that extra set of eyes.

All four eyes had excellent peripheral vision as well. They could even see inside

my head. She knew what I was going to do even before I did. What a super mom!

Until I had that conversation with my friend, I had no idea how blessed I was to have a mom with four eyes or a friend to set me straight.

Allow me to give you a recent example to demonstrate how my mom’s influence has been a blessing to me at this stage of my life.

A couple of weeks ago I lost a good friend to cancer caused by smoking and eating junk food. He was only in his mid-50s.

In the last couple of years he and his family had made a gallant effort to right these wrongs. He undertook his gamble as a young man.

Am I better than my friend because I don’t smoke or eat junk food? Absolutely not! Better? No. Blessed? Yes.

And why am I blessed? The credit goes to my mom.

She is the one with her four eyes and insight who taught me well not to gamble. It is because of her that I have chosen to go in a better direction concerning these health matters.

I have reaped wonderful blessings because of my mom. Thanks, Mom. Thanks, God, for giving me my mom.