

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Church of God Big Sandy

ChurchofGodBigSandy.com

July 3, 2010 • 2:00 p.m. • Sunset 8:30

Service next Sabbath: 2:00 p.m.

Order of service

Song leader	David Havir III
Pianist	Dixon Cartwright
First sermon	Neil McIver
Teen class—Classroom #1	Martha McIver
Bridges class—Classroom #1	Martha McIver
Kids' class—Classroom #2	Leslie Harroff
Interactive Bible study—Foyer	Bernie Monsalvo
Second sermon	Dave Havir

Quick takes

1. Potluck meal today—There is a potluck meal scheduled immediately after the church today.
2. Interrelating with other congregations—Today, Ron Feaker is giving a sermon in Tyler.
3. Thank you—The congregation thanks Don and Michele Mischnick for hosting the pool party last Sunday.
4. Election results—J.L. Roden and the election committee announce that Neil McIver and Don Mischnick have been reelected to the board.
5. Thank you—Thank you to the individuals who served on the election committee and to the individuals who voted in the election.
6. Edifying the Body—This week's article is "A Meditation on Independence Day" by Lenny Cacchio.
7. Among Friends—This week's article is "What Is the Cloward-Piven Strategy?" by Dave Havir.
8. Eye on the World—This week's collection by Dave Havir has eight pages.
9. Last week's Bible study—On Wednesday, June 30, Bernie Monsalvo gave a Bible study titled "1 Peter 4-5."

Prayer updates

Nancy Sharp is scheduled to go to Dallas for tests in Dallas on Tuesday and later to go to Dallas for surgery to remove a kidney stone on Monday, July 19.

Because **James Moran** has dealt with red tape concerning potential chemotherapy, he is awaiting a possible schedule for the treatment. He reports that he continues to make steady progress, but he would appreciate your continued prayers.

Stan West reports that the biopsy result for his father, **Ben West**, was "positive." However, since the cancer is not viewed as an aggressive type, the doctor is planning to treat him with hormone therapy. More tests are needed to determine if the cancer has spread. The family appreciates your ongoing prayers.

Grace Feaker, who had cataract surgery on the left eye on Tuesday, June 22, reports that she had initial cloudiness in her eye and that it is getting better.

Here are excerpts from a report yesterday by **Martha McIver** concerning **Ellen Edelbach**: "We had a meeting last week with all the folks at Clairmont who have been treating Mom. Her physical therapy nurse reported that she had responded very well to the therapy and they are pleased with her progress. However, she is only able to attain a 'modified independent status,' meaning that she is not strong enough to maneuver with her crutches or a walker. Therefore, they recommend a caregiver be with her at all times. She will be released from Clairmont on Monday and will move back home. **Randy [McIver, her son]** has moved down and will live there with her and take care of her."

Willa Lea Kelley of Grantsville, W.Va. (mother of **Kathy Kerby**), is recovering from her double pneumonia. (While we previously had asked prayers for her double pneumonia, we had not announced that she had an asthma attack on Tuesday, June 22. At that time, she "almost didn't make it to the ER.") She went to the doctor yesterday and had a good checkup.

Karen Kusch of Cherhill, Alta., Canada (who we first put in our church bulletin on April 24), reports some progress. She had her MRI on June 7. She went to the doctor on June 8 and received strong medication. On June 11, things began to improve. At that time, she experienced less pain in her back and began lifting her leg. (She still has some numbness in her leg.) She recently learned that she has shingles, but it is getting better. The doctor is discussing potential surgery, in "approximately six weeks." She appreciates your prayers.

Gerald Gill of Kunkletown, Pa. (father of **Dave Havir**), who suffered a ministroke on Friday, June 2, completed the last of six sessions of physical therapy on Monday and went for a doctor's appointment on Tuesday. The doctor authorized four more sessions of physical therapy and continued to restrict Mr. Gill from driving for a while longer.

Ron Dart fell last Saturday morning. As a precaution, he was transported by ambulance from the rehab facility to ETMC in Tyler. He had a CAT scan on two consecutive days. He returned to the rehab facility on Tuesday evening.

Alma Satterwhite of Mechanicsville, Va., died on Friday, June 25. Please remember the family in your prayers.

Richard Anderson of Savannah, Ga., who was in a motorcycle accident near Richmond, Va., on Sunday, June 20, died on Sunday, June 27. Please remember his wife, **Nancy**, and the rest of the family in your prayers.

Charles Neff Jr. of Marianna, Fla., died on Monday. Please remember the family in your prayers.

New prayer requests

John Havir of Huntington, W.Va. (brother of **Dave Havir**), has been dealing this week with pain in his lower right hip and in his back. He went to the doctor on Thursday.

Lupe Gonzalez of the local United congregation recently had “a lump removed from his shoulder area.” At his follow-up visit with the doctor on Wednesday, he learned that it was a “lipoma” and that there are no cancer cells.

Sonia Andrusko of Stenen, Sask., Canada, who has been battling rheumatism for 17 years and has been in palliative care for the last six or seven years, has been moved to a hospital “for the last couple of months.”

Carol Schmidt of Stauton, Ill., who has been dealing with cancer for several years, learned that bone cancer is now in her back and legs.

Kathy Houser of Kellyville, Okla., died on Monday, June 21. Please remember her husband, **Dennis**, and the rest of the family in your prayers.

Ed and **Olivia Rash** of Danville, Va., were found shot to death in their home on Friday, June 25. Please remember the family in your prayers.

Glenn Lay of Okmulgee, Okla., died on Monday. Please remember the family in your prayers.

“A Meditation on Independence Day”

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 July 3-4, 2010.

By **Lenny Cacchio**

LEE’S SUMMIT, Mo.—For me the days leading up to Independence Day are thoughtful ones. The sobering reality of troops in harm’s way and cells of violence here at home should lead us to revisit our priorities. With our nation’s history in mind, it is fitting to recall where we

are and where we came from.

First president

The generations before us sacrificed their blood and sweat to ensure today’s blessings of liberty. George Washington on his first inaugural made clear his conviction that the hand of Providence was guiding a people

whose destiny was greatness.

Said Washington: "It would be peculiarly improper to omit in this first official act my fervent supplications to that Almighty Being who rules over the universe, who presides in the councils of nations . . . that His benediction may consecrate to the liberties and happiness of the people of the United States . . . No people can be bound to acknowledge the Invisible Hand which conducts the affairs of men more than the people of the United States. Every step by which they have advanced to the character of an independent nation seems to have been distinguished by some token of providential agency" (quoted in *By These Words*, by Paul M. Angle, pages 128-129).

First Congress

The First Congress issued this resolution shortly after it convened.

"Resolved, That a Joint Committee of both Houses be directed to wait upon the President of the United States, to request that he would recommend to the People of the United States a day of Thanksgiving and Prayer, to be observed by acknowledging with grateful hearts the many signal favours of Almighty God, especially by affording them an opportunity peacefully to establish a Constitution of Government for their safety and happiness" (Annals of Congress, Sept. 25, 1789).

First chief justice

And John Jay, the first chief justice of the third branch of government, the Supreme Court, wrote: "I have long been of the opinion that the evidence of the truth of Christianity requires only to be carefully examined to produce conviction in candid minds . . ." (John Jay, in a letter to the Rev. Uzal Ogden, Feb. 14, 1796).

Many years later, in an address to the American Bible Society, Justice Jay remarked: "The same merciful Providence has also been pleased to cause every material event and occurrence respecting our Redeemer, together with the gospel he proclaimed, and the miracles and predictions to which it gave occasion, to be faithfully recorded and preserved for the information and benefit of all mankind" (John Jay, in an

address to the American Bible Society, May 9, 1822).

Based on Isaiah

Because so many of the founders had a vision of the nation based on Higher Power, they built a constitutional republic rooted in both English Common Law and biblical precepts. Even the concept of three coequal branches of government is based on a passage tucked away in the book of the prophet Isaiah:

"For the LORD is our Judge, the LORD is our Lawgiver, the LORD is our King" (Isaiah 33:22, NKJV).

Here we have the judicial, legislative and executive branches of government rolled into one neat package headed by the Sovereign of the universe. But the framers of the Constitution were savvy enough to know that only God is wise enough and trustworthy enough to wield the power of all three branches. That's why they divided the government and gave the three branches countervailing powers. Though frustratingly restrictive, that construct over the centuries has saved us a lot of grief.

And it should give us pause when we review the words and convictions of the first president, the first chief justice of the Supreme Court and the first Congress. These men were witnesses and participants in the birth of a nation. They fought for its independence, they framed its Constitution, and supported its Bill of Rights.

Sovereignty of God

In assuming the mantle of power, all three branches of their first convening under that constitution acknowledged the sovereignty of Almighty God over their affairs.

While many have been led to believe that most of the founding fathers were Deists (I was taught that bit of misinformation over 35 years ago), from their own statements it is clear that very few fell into that category. They knew who the true Judge, the true Chief Executive and the true Lawgiver is, and humbly accepted the temporary charge given them to establish a more perfect union and promote the general welfare.

They taught us the lesson that a little humility goes a long way on the road to greatness.