

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Church of God Big Sandy

ChurchofGodBigSandy.com

July 1, 2023 • 1:00 p.m. • Sunset 8:30

Bible studies

Interactive study—1:00 p.m. Dave Havir

Presentation study—2:00 Neil Mclver
(Also transmitted live)

Order of service—3:00 p.m.

Song leader Neil Mclver

Pianist Dixon Cartwright

Scripture reading Matthew 5:27–32

Sermon Mark Weiss

Quick takes

1. Thank you—Garland and Leslie Harroff thank all who helped prepare our hall for the wedding (of Allison Harroff and Ashton Beason) last Saturday evening.
2. Welcome to traveling speaker—The congregation welcomes Mark Weiss as the traveling speaker today. (Since Mr. Weiss was scheduled on June 17 when we had to cancel the church service due to the loss of electricity in the building, Dave Havir gave his spot today to Mr. Weiss.)
3. Traveling speakers—We are pleased to announce the following traveling speakers coming to our congregation.
 - Today Mark Weiss
 - July 8 Wynn Skelton
 - July 22 Blake Silverstein
4. Board election concludes at 5:00 today—Today is the last day to participate in the board election.

5. Celebration of Life for Ron Avey—Linda Avey and her family invite members of the congregation to the celebration of life for her husband. Following are some details.

■ Date	Sunday, July 2
■ Time	10:00 a.m.
■ Where	Church auditorium
■ No meal	Afterwards, the family will gather for a private family meal

6. Wednesday-night Bible study this week—July 5

7. Please remember to pray for the following people who are not able to regularly attend our church service.

■ Mickey Ashcraft	■ Ronnie Shirley
■ Timberly Dunnam	■ Elaine Townsend
■ Annette Payne	■ Donna Weese
■ Ruth Roe	

8. Edifying the Body—This week's article is "Can You Define Leftism?" by Dennis Prager.

9. Among Friends—This week's article is "Parable of the Sower—Part 4" by Dave Havir.

10. Eye on the World—The version of this week's "Eye on the World" that is distributed in the hall is 30 pages. (The number of pages on the website varies slightly due to a different layout program.) This edition has 255 headlines and one article.

Prayer updates

Following is an update about **Gary Wilson**. As was announced weeks ago, he and **Lisa Smith** arranged to fly to Chicago for him to undergo some stem-cell treatment. This past Tuesday, they went to a Dallas airport at 2:00 a.m. to make their early-morning flight departure. After arriving in Chicago, he had his stem-cell treatment on Tuesday afternoon. Although they originally thought they might be in Chicago for a couple of days, the treatment went well and they were free to return home. So they flew back to Texas on Wednesday. Once home, they explored arranging hyperbaric chamber therapy in the Tyler area.

New prayer requests

On Friday, **Tolton Smith** was not feeling well and went to an ER in Longview.

Laura Jacobi of Gig Harbor, Wash., has been diagnosed with a rare autoimmune disease, which is progressing internally. She is presently dealing with interstitial cystitis (which is hardening of the lining of the bladder).

Mark McGarvey of Tulsa, Okla., had back surgery. He is anticipating three months of recovery ahead of him.

On Thursday, **Bea Gusner** went to Tyler to have a heart catheterization. On Friday, she told **Dave Havir** that she was experiencing consistent bleeding at her wrist (which was the entry point of her procedure). Also on Friday, she told Mr. Havir about a death in her family. (See the next announcement.)

Jon Anderson of Roanoke, Va. (son-in-law of **Bea Gusner**), died on June 29. Please remember his wife, **Jolene**, and the rest of the family in your prayers. (While a death is generally traumatic, please remember his daughter **Ginger**, who turned 14 yesterday. The poor girl will forever associate her birthday with the death of her father.)

Eye on the World

- Looking back to January 2023, a press release by Secretary of State Antony J. Blinken titled “Launch of Welcome Corps—Private Sponsorship of Refugees [Discusses Private Citizens Housing Illegal Immigrants in Their Homes]” was posted at state.gov on Jan. 19, 2023.
- An article by Eric Hogue titled “When Tyranny Wears the Mask of Tolerance” was posted at townhall.com on June 27, 2023.
- An article by Chris Jewers titled “Protesters Storm Swedish Embassy in Iraq as Global Fury Grows Over Koran Burning: Huge Mob Forces Its Way In After Nations Including Iran, Turkey and U.S. Condemned Holy Book Desecration” was posted at dailymail.co.uk on June 29, 2023.
- An article by James Gordon titled “Michigan Residents Could Be Charged With a Felony, Face Up to Five Years in Prison and Get a \$10,000 Fine for Using the Wrong Pronouns Under ‘Unconstitutional’ New Bill” was posted at dailymail.co.uk on June 30, 2023.
- An article by D. Diego Torres titled “Thomas Sowell—Still Relevant at 93” was posted at americanthinker.com on June 30, 2023.

Thought for the week

“I am truly thankful that former president Donald Trump was able to place some conservative judges on the United States Supreme Court while he was in office.”—*Dave Havir*

Thought with a twist

“I hate it when I can’t figure out how to operate the iPad at a time when my tech-support guy is not handy and might actually be asleep. But he is 6 years old and it is past his bedtime.”

“Parable of the Sower—Part 4”

This article is from the “Among Friends” section of the Church of God Big Sandy’s website (churchofgodbigandy.com). It was posted for the weekend of July 1, 2023.

By Dave Havir

BIG SANDY, Texas—At our Bible study on Wednesday night, I completed the four-part series about the parable of the sower (which was given in Matthew 13:3-9 and explained in Matthew 13:18-23).

Let’s look at the fourth lesson in the parable.

Yielding a crop

Matthew 13:8—“But others fell on good ground and yielded a crop: some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty.”

Matthew 13:23—“But he who received seed on the good ground is he who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and produces: some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty.”

Saved by grace

■ Ephesians 2:8-9—Disciples are saved by grace.

■ Ephesians 2:10—Disciples are created for good works—meaning our Father has specific expectations of us.

■ Titus 3:4-7—Disciples are saved by grace.

■ Titus 3:8—Disciples are to be constantly reminded to maintain good works—meaning our Father has specific expectations of us.

Bear fruit

There are many verses that discuss disciples bearing fruit. Notice only a few.

■ Matthew 7:16-19—You know people by their fruit (whether good or bad).

■ Hebrews 12:11—Correction yields the peaceable fruit of righteousness.

Bear fruit with patience

Luke 8:15—“But the ones that fell on the good ground are those who, having heard the word with a noble and good heart, keep it and bear fruit with patience.”

The Greek word for patience (*hupomone*—Strong’s No. 5281) is a noun that means “perseverance, endurance and patience.”

Romans 15:4-5—“For whatever things

were written before were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope. Now may the God of patience and comfort grant you to be like-minded toward one another, according to Christ Jesus.”

The Greek verb variation of the word (*hupomeno*—Strong’s No. 5278) means “to stand firm, endure and persevere.”

Hebrews 10:36—“For you have need of endurance, so that after you have done the will of God, you may receive the promise.”

Both noun and verb

Here are two examples with both the noun and the verb.

■ Hebrews 12:1-3—Let us run the race with “endurance” (No. 5281). He “endured” (No. 5278) the cross. Consider Him who “endured” (No. 5278) such hostility.

■ James 5:11—We count them blessed who “endure” (No. 5278). You have heard of the “patience” (No. 5281) of Job.

True vine

John 15:1-4—“I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser. Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit He takes away; and every branch that bears fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit. You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you. Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me.”

John 15:5-8—“I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing. If anyone does not abide in Me, he is cast out as a branch and is withered; and they gather them and throw them into the fire, and they are burned. If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you. By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples.”