

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## Church of God Big Sandy

ChurchofGodBigSandy.com

Aug. 4, 2018 • 2:00 p.m. • Sunset 8:14

### Bible studies and classes

Interactive study (1:00) .....	Dave Havir
Bible study (2:00) .....	Morris Foster
Teen class .....	Neil McIver

### Order of service

Song leader .....	Reg Killingley
Pianist .....	Dixon Cartwright
Scripture reading .....	Acts 7:37-46
Sermon .....	Dave Havir

### Quick takes

1. Thank you—The congregation thanks Neil McIver and helpers (Brandon Jitjaeng, Mikey Jitjaeng, Tolton Smith and Zach Kennebeck) for their clean-up on the church property.
2. Guest speaker next week—The congregation welcomes Kelly McDonald to our congregation on Aug. 11. Mr. McDonald enjoys giving presentations about the history of the seventh-day Sabbath. Here is the schedule.
  - 1:00—"The Real Constantine"
  - 2:00—"Seven Factors That Influenced the Sabbath in Early Christianity"
  - 3:15—"The Sabbath in Early Christianity"
  - 4:00—Potluck meal
3. Potluck meal next week—There is a potluck meal scheduled shortly after the church service next week.
4. Update about fiber-optic line—Neil McIver reports that the fiber-optic line was laid under the driveway of the building on Thursday and was laid up to the building on Friday. The plans are for the line to be installed in the building on Monday.

5. Myrtle Beach housing—The housing block at the Avista resort for the 2018 Feast of Tabernacles will be held until Aug. 24. At that time, our rooms will be released into the general public.
6. Edifying the Body—This week's article is "Nathanael: A Man Without Deceit" by Lenny Cacchio.
7. Among Friends—The week's article is "This Earthly Life Is a Journey to Eternity" by Dave Havir.
8. Eye on the World—This week's "Eye on the World" is 30 pages.

## Prayer updates

**Elaine Holloway** reports that her new chair (that is designed to help her to better raise her legs when she is sitting) arrived on Tuesday. She mentioned that she was having trouble getting accustomed to the controls. **Dave Havir** joked that if she is not careful she might experience the feeling of riding a bucking bronco.

Please remember **Marilyn Boston** as she deals with breathing difficulty.

Please remember **Sonny Rosenberger**, who is dealing with various health challenges.

**Gracie Feaker** is still receiving additional physical therapy at Legend Oaks Nursing Home in Gladewater. She is Room 312.

Please remember **Betty Foster**, who is dealing with pain and low energy.

On Wednesday, **Larry Foster** (son of **Betty Foster**) went to Longview to visit the doctor who treated him in Dallas. The doctor said Mr. Foster was doing well. He is scheduled to return to Dallas in the coming months to take stem-cell treatment.

Last Saturday, **Daniel Botha** went to a hospital in Rockwall, where an orthopedist drained about half a pint of blood from his right knee—the result of internal bleeding.

## New prayer requests

For a time, **Ron Avey** has been experiencing some irregularity with his heart rhythm. On Thursday, Mr. Avey went to Longview Regional Hospital for the placement of a pacemaker. The doctor recommended some additional heart surgery. On Monday, Mr. Avey is scheduled for surgery to replace a heart valve and to perform a double bypass. He and **Linda** appreciate your prayers.

As was mentioned orally last Saturday, **Martha McIver** was anticipating two procedures to be done this past week. She had a CT scan last Monday and had a bladder procedure (called a macrocystique) yesterday. Here are excerpts that Mrs. McIver shared yesterday: "The chances of it working are 60 percent. If it doesn't, I will have to have invasive surgery. I am very sore. I have to rest all weekend."

On Friday (July 27), **Laura Moran** went to an ER with heart symptoms and had an EKG. She was diagnosed with low potassium. Early this week, she began dealing with viral bronchitis.

Earlier in the week, **Lee Stolley** of the local United congregation was bitten or stung by a suspected brown-recluse spider. Later in the week, Mr. Stolley went to see family in Tucson and ended up in a hospital there.

Many months ago, we requested prayers on several occasions for **Jennifer Faulkner** of St. Louis, Mo. (wife of **Jim Faulkner** and sister-in-law of **Carol Bald**), who was dealing with cancer. Here are excerpts from Mrs. Bald: "Jennifer started a very aggressive treatment for cancer last Wednesday. She has been battling the disease for the last two years. She and Jim have two young children and appreciate everyone's prayers and support." Their mailing address is on the bulletin board.

**Jesús Rolan** of Bogotá, Colombia, has been diagnosed with stomach cancer.

**Roy Harris** of Medford, Ore., fell and broke his hip.

**Florence Pfund** of Pickens, S.C. (sister-in-law of **Kemmer Pfund**), died on July 19. Please remember her husband, **Avon**, and the rest of the family in your prayers.

**Warren Krieger** of Livingston died on July 26. Please remember his wife, **Cynthia**, and the family in your prayers.

**James Knight** of Avery died on July 30. Please remember the family in your prayers.

## Synopsis of board meeting

Here is a synopsis of the board meeting on Saturday evening, July 28.

- The board welcomed the new board members—Ron Avey and David Coleman are beginning three-year terms. Kemmer Pfund is completing the final year of Al Donahue's term (following his death).
- The board expressed appreciation for the service of Mr. Donahue and of David Havir III (who chose not to return to the board after spending years serving as secretary and treasurer).
- The board selected the officers: Mr. Avey as president, Reg Killingley as vice president, Carol Bald as secretary and Neil McIver as treasurer.
- Linda Cartwright (who has been helping board members with organization and paperwork) gave a brief treasurer's report. She noted that (1) the congregation received \$916.33 less than last year in the mail and (2) the donations made on PayPal were more than the reported deficit.
- In unfinished business, the board discussed (1) an update about the installation of fiber optics, (2) a report by the Election Committee and (3) a discussion about building maintenance.
- In new business, the board discussed (1) the purchase of a mower, (2) the investment portion of church finances and (3) a brief comment about planning in the event that Dave Havir was no longer available to pastor the congregation.
- Mr. Havir distributed his pastor's report. Due to the length of the meeting, there was no discussion about his report at that time.

## “This Earthly Life Is a Journey to Eternity”

This article is from the “Among Friends” section of the Church of God Big Sandy’s website, churchofgodbig sandy.com. It was posted for the weekend of Aug. 4, 2018.

**By Dave Havir**

**B**IG SANDY, Texas—How do you handle life when you are disappointed in your own behavior?

Allow me to remind you about a concept that can help you deal with disappointment and with rehabilitation:

Life is a journey.

Seeing that phrase probably imparts no new knowledge. When was the first time you heard that phrase? That long ago?

You undoubtedly understand the concept of the phrase “life is a journey” better today than you did when you first heard it.

That’s what life’s experience does. Experience helps us to internalize information as we mature.

### **Story of Ecclesiastes**

One of the best examples of life being a journey is in the book of Ecclesiastes.

Believers love the conclusion of that Old Testament book. The book has such a positive message at the end. However, the tone throughout the book can be considered pessimistic.

The book begins in Ecclesiastes 1:1-2 with the thesis that can be paraphrased this way: “Life is worthless.” Then the author writes about his journey.

He tried the route of striving after wisdom (verses 12-18). That didn’t provide him with the answers for which he was searching.

He embarked on the path of pleasure (Ecclesiastes 2:1-3), great accomplishments (verses 4-17) and hard labor (verses 18-23). He still considered life to be flawed.

Ecclesiastes is a fascinating book. We watch a glimpse of a man on a journey in his life. The process of his learning is a valuable lesson.

### **Focus on eternity**

Viewing life as a journey should empower us to make better decisions in our lives. Yet there is more to the story than merely viewing life as a journey.

We are on a journey to eternity. Chew on that for a while.

■ Focusing on eternity should help us to put physical possessions into perspective.

Christ taught His disciples in Matthew 6:25-34 not to become preoccupied with physical things.

■ Focusing on eternity should help us to put religion into perspective.

We need to look to the Apostle. In case you don’t know who that is, check out Hebrews 3:1.

We need to look to the Head of the church at headquarters. In case you don’t know who and where those are, read Ephesians 1:20-23.

■ Focusing on eternity should help us to put negative experiences into perspective.

People have a tendency to do evil toward you because they get away with their behavior during this life (Ecclesiastes 8:11).

■ Focusing on eternity should help us change our behavior.

Paul wrote that if we are risen with Christ we should seek those things that are above (Colossians 3:1-2).

Christ Himself taught that a believer’s recompense would come at the resurrection of the just (Luke 14:12-14).

### **One other benefit**

Remembering that this life is a journey to eternity should be valuable in helping us when we are disappointed in ourselves. We can become reconciled with our Father.

There is another benefit as well. Remembering that this life is a journey to eternity should be valuable in helping us when we are disappointed in the behavior of other people.

There is certainly nothing wrong with avoiding the unsavory behavior of other people. There is also nothing wrong with avoiding unsavory people.

But, if we remember that they are on a journey to eternity, we will do a better job of allowing Christ to be their judge.

Even as we keep our distance, we might even pray that their journey to eternity will be successful.