

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Church of God Big Sandy

ChurchofGodBigSandy.com

Dec. 1, 2018 • 2:00 p.m. • Sunset 5:13

Bible studies and classes

Interactive study (1:00) Dave Havir
Bible study (2:00) Neil Mclver
Teen class Martha Mclver

Order of service

Song leader Neil Mclver
Pianist Dixon Cartwright
Scripture reading Acts 14:1-10
Sermon Dave Havir

Quick takes

1. Family activities in Lexington, Ky.—The Church of God Cincinnati will be hosting its annual Winter Family Weekend in Lexington, Ky., from Friday, Dec. 21, through Tuesday, Dec. 25.
2. Foster Barn Dance—The annual Foster Barn Dance is scheduled in Gladewater on Saturday evening, Dec. 29.
3. Edifying the Body—This week's article is "Lessons My Father Taught Me About Being Thankful" by Daniel Krauthammer.
4. Among Friends—This week's article is "Wisdom From Above—Pure" by Dave Havir.
5. Eye on the World—This week's "Eye on the World" is 24 pages.

Prayer updates

On Sunday, **Gracie Feaker** returned to the home of caregiving daughter **Karen**. On Monday, **Ron Feaker** was moved to rehab at Legend Oaks Nursing Home in Gladewater. Caregiving daughter **Karen** reports that he fell twice this week (Tuesday and Friday). He is in Room 111.

On Monday, **Elaine Holloway** (who recently fell in her home and broke her hip) was moved to rehab at Legend Oaks Nursing Home in Gladewater. She is in Room 109.

Marilyn Boston is dealing with the pneumonia and the infection called C-dif.

Laura Moran reports that her pneumonia is improving. On Dec. 12, she is scheduled for an initial visit with a doctor who will be administering a sleep study for her.

On Thursday, **Vi Lehman** had her last antibiotic for bronchitis and reports that she is feeling better.

On Thursday, **Betty Foster** had an MRI and was diagnosed with two additional compression fractures and two vertebrae that are pinching a nerve.

Eli Benedict continues to have pain in his right leg.

Colleen Atteberry continues to recover at home following her recent triple-bypass surgery.

Sonny Rosenberger appreciates all the prayers for his ongoing health challenges.

Willie Choate was scheduled yesterday to have a port removed. (The purpose of the port was to receive his chemo treatments when he was on that program.)

On Monday, **Larry Foster** of Avinger (son of **Betty Foster**) went for another cancer treatment (his fifth) in Longview. While there, the doctor referred him to a dermatologist to deal with a brown-recluse-spider bite (that had occurred five weeks ago). The dermatologist gave him four shots in the leg. On Friday, Mr. Foster is scheduled for an appointment in Longview with the doctor who treated him in Dallas.

In last week's bulletin, we mentioned some of the challenges facing **Trey Holcomb** of Longview (4-year-old nephew of **Angela Dunnam**). Here are excerpts from an update on Sunday: "Trey hasn't been using the bathroom, so the doctor ordered a scan to see what's going on. They said Trey now has ileus. (Ileus is an obstruction of the ileum, which is a small part of the intestine). They started an antibiotic for infection." Prayers are also requested for the family watching this scenario unfold.

New prayer requests

Bill Grams of San Marcos, Calif., was hospitalized due to his liver not functioning well and his kidneys are failing. His wife, **Nancy**, is looking for a hospice facility close to their home.

Rose Mullay of Arcadia, Calif., had surgery last week for an infection in her knee.

On Monday, **Alice Baughman** of the local United congregation had knee-replacement surgery.

Marsha Hohertz of Claremont, Calif., died on Nov. 10. Please remember her husband, **Loyd**, and the rest of the family in your prayers.

Vince Hirschler of Omaha, Neb., died on Nov. 26. Please remember his wife, **Marie**, and the rest of the family in your prayers.

"The Blessing of Being Alive"

This article is from the "Edifying the Body" section of the Church of God Big Sandy's website, churchofgodbig sandy.com. It was posted for the weekend of Nov. 24, 2018. This article was taken from notes that Mrs. West compiled for an oral presentation at a community Thanksgiving church service on Nov. 18.

By Shirley Dobbs West

BIG SANDY, Texas—I strongly believe in the sanctity of life. Therefore, I am pro-life and the reason is very personal.

My parents were married in 1932. My mother lacked one month being 15 years old and my daddy was 24.

My grandmother gave permission for the marriage because doctors had told her she had only a few months to live. She knew Daddy would take good care of her young daughter. She made Daddy promise that Mother would not have a child before she was at least 18 years old.

In the spring of 1935, my mother became pregnant. My parents wanted a child and they were joyful. But one day Daddy came in from work and found mother on the floor. He thought she was dead. He carefully laid her on the bed and she came to—crying in pain and anguish. Then, she passed out again.

Terrified, Daddy ran two miles to the country store that had a phone to call the doctor.

The doctor came and thought Mother was having a miscarriage. But, as time went on and the pain and anguish continued, he knew something else was wrong. He called an ambulance to take Mother to the hospital, 16 miles away.

At the hospital, he conferred with another doctor and they decided the only way to save Mother's life was to abort her child.

Mother refused and begged Daddy, "Please don't let them take my baby." Daddy wouldn't sign the consent form.

An elderly doctor was in the hospital attending to a patient. The younger doctors consulted him and he examined Mother.

He told them: "This woman will die if you take her baby. With surgery I believe the mother and baby can be saved. But I am too old to do the surgery."

The younger doctors said they would do the surgery under the supervision of the older doc-

tor. They also promised Mother they would not take the baby unless it was absolutely necessary. She agreed to the surgery.

I don't know what the problem was, but the surgery was successful. Mother had to have care the rest of her pregnancy. My grandmother (who was to live three more years) took care of her.

On Oct. 18, 1935, Mother was 18 years old. She was with child, but she had not given birth. So, technically, Daddy had kept his promise.

On Dec. 30, 1935, I was born.

I wasn't breathing. The doctor put me in a basin of warm water and then in one of cold water. That shocked me into breathing and I let out a good, healthy cry.

The family story is that my grandmother was so happy she slapped the doctor on the back and he almost dropped me.

I wasn't the only miracle that December night. It snowed in western Oklahoma, which was the first moisture in 13 months in that drought-stricken area of the Dust Bowl.

I was 40 years old when Daddy told me the story of my birth. He also said I was 15 years old before he got the hospital bill paid.

I am now almost 83 years old. And just think—I could have been a statistic in a dusty record book in the Beckham County courthouse that reads, "Dobbs—girl—aborted at three months—June 1935."

Because of God's mercy, my mother's courage and my parents love, I have had many wonderful opportunities. I have had the opportunity to be a wife for 60 wonderful years and be a mother, grandmother and great-grandmother.

Each birthday, I remember God's mercy, Mother's courage and Daddy's love for his wife and unborn child. And I say a prayer of thanksgiving for the blessing of being alive.

Oh, by the way. My grandmother lived to see my children.

We serve an awesome, awesome God.

“Wisdom From Above—Pure”

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 Dec. 1, 2018.

By Dave Havir

BIG SANDY, Texas—There are many sections in the Bible that describe characteristics that disciples seek to inculcate into their lives. One such section is found in James 3:17.

James 3:17—“But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy.”

Today, we will discuss the subject of being pure.

Greek word in James 3:17

At this time, let’s focus upon the Greek word in James 3:17 translated as “pure.”

■ **Hagnos** (No. 53 in *Strong’s Concordance*) is the Greek adjective translated as “pure” in James 3:17. It is used in seven other verses.

Philippians 4:8—Meditate upon the things that are pure.

1 Timothy 5:22—Keep yourself pure.

1 John 3:3—Everyone who has hope in God purifies himself, just as He is pure.

2 Corinthians 11:2—Paul used the metaphor of presenting them a chaste (No. 53) virgin to Christ.

Titus 2:5—Older women were expected to teach younger women to be chaste (No. 53).

1 Peter 3:2—Husbands observe their wives chaste (No. 53) conduct.

2 Corinthians 7:11—In all things, you proved yourself to be clear (No. 53) in this matter.

Variations of Greek word

Here are variations of the Greek word *hagnos* in the New Testament.

■ **Hagnizo** (No. 48 in *Strong’s Concordance*) is a verb used seven times. Those verses are John 11:55; Acts 21:24; Acts 21:26; Acts 24:18; James 4:8; 1 Peter 1:22; and 1 John 3:3.

James 4:8—“Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded.”

■ **Hagneia** (No. 47 in *Strong’s Concordance*) is a noun used two times. Those verses are 1 Timothy 4:12 and 1 Timothy 5:2.

1 Timothy 4:12—“Let no one despise your youth, but be an example to the believers in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity.”

■ **Hagnismos** (No. 49 in *Strong’s Concordance*) is a noun used one time. That verse is Acts 21:26.

■ **Hagnotes** (No. 54 in *Strong’s Concordance*) is a noun used one time. That verse is 2 Corinthians 6:6.

Another Greek word

When a Bible student examines the word *pure* in the New Testament, he notices another Greek word—*katharos* (No. 2513 in *Strong’s Concordance*). This word is translated as “pure” 17 times. Following are a few examples.

Matthew 5:8—“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.”

1 Timothy 1:5—“Now the purpose of the commandment is love from a pure heart, from a good conscience, and from sincere faith.”

2 Timothy 2:22—“Flee also youthful lusts; but pursue righteousness, faith, love, peace with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart.”

Titus 1:15—“To the pure all things are pure, but to those who are defiled and unbelieving nothing is pure; but even their mind and conscience are defiled.”

James 1:27—“Pure and undefiled religion before God and the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their trouble, and to keep oneself unspotted from the world.”