

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Church of God Big Sandy

ChurchofGodBigSandy.com

Feb. 23, 2019 • 2:00 p.m. • Sunset 6:11

Bible studies and classes

Interactive study (1:00) Dave Havir
Bible study (2:00) Stan West
Teen class Roxanna West

Order of service

Song leader Neil McIver
Pianist Dixon Cartwright
Scripture reading Acts 17:22-34
Sermon Dave Havir

Quick takes

1. Community event on March 4—There will be a community event (a meal sponsored by the Big Sandy Museum Association) in our building on Monday, March 4. Anyone in the congregation who would like to attend may see Dave Havir.
2. Very rare to cancel church service—It is the custom of our congregation to avoid canceling our church service due to inclement weather. Even with a lower attendance in the building on a specific day due to weather in our area, we still hope to serve the audience on the website.
3. Main reason for canceling church service—Our main reason for canceling a church service is the loss of electricity.
4. Edifying the Body—This week's article is "What Ocasio-Cortez's Popularity Says About Our Culture" by Gregory Drobny.
5. Among Friends—This week's article is "Meditate on Whatever Is Lovely" by Dave Havir.
6. Eye on the World—This week's "Eye on the World" is 24 pages.

Prayer updates

Please remember **Lisa Smith**, who has been diagnosed with a buildup of fluid around the cerebellum that produced strokelike symptoms.

In last week's bulletin, we mentioned that **Martha McIver** was scheduled for sling surgery on her bladder last Wednesday. She reported the following: "The surgery Wednesday on my bladder went fine with no complications. I am home, but very sore."

In the Sept. 8 bulletin, we mentioned that **Leslie Harroff** was diagnosed with lupus. In the Nov. 10 bulletin, we mentioned that she had received her second chemo shot. (She ultimately received six shots. But the doctor decided to move away from that treatment.) She appreciates your prayers about her challenges, and she reports that she has been feeling much better for the past few weeks.

In last week's bulletin, we mentioned that **Betty Foster** (who continues to rehab at Legend Oaks Nursing Home in Gladewater) was hoping to go home tomorrow). As it turns out, there were two opinions. While the doctor had mentioned the possibility of her going home, a physical therapist recommended that the brace (from ankle to hip) on her right leg should probably be removed before she went home. The removal of the brace may occur in two weeks. She is in Room 307.

Colleen Atteberry reports that she has enjoyed being at church the past two weeks and that those occasions have not caused her any significant setback during the following weeks.

Ron Feaker continues to rehab at the home of caregiving daughter **Karen**.

Elaine Holloway continues to rehab at Legend Oaks Nursing Home in Gladewater. She is in Room 109.

Marilyn Boston continues to rehab at Park Place Rehabilitation Center in Tyler (2450 E. Fifth St.). She is in Room 218.

Laura Moran reports that she had a good week.

Sonny Rosenberger appreciates prayers for his breathing challenges and his other ongoing health challenges.

Boyd Payne is dealing with Parkinson's disease, nerve pain in his head and dementia.

Annette Payne continues to deal with her bad eyesight.

Dorothy Jones (mother of **Shirley Spearman**) told **Dave Havir** that, although she had some good days this week, she was having a bad day (feeling extremely weak) on Friday.

Please remember **Shirley Spearman**, who is experiencing pain in her right knee.

Please remember **Dorothy Thomas** (sister of **Shirley Spearman**), who is experiencing pain in her back and other parts of her body.

In last week's bulletin, we mentioned that **Vonda Ouellette** of Houston was having treatments of a needle inserted into her eye. She was scheduled last Tuesday for the sixth insertion of a needle.

Tim Lindholm of Minneapolis, Minn., has been experiencing increased pain due to his cancer. Please remember him, **Hope** and the children as they go through this trial together.

New prayer requests

In last week's bulletin, we mentioned that **Veronica Miles** (who was recently involved in an automobile accident) was experiencing a burning under the skin of her arm, and there was a possibility of her having an MRI this week. The MRI was postponed until a later time. Now there is a new condition to report. On Tuesday, Mrs. Miles went to the ER of UT Health (northeast of Tyler) and was diagnosed with bronchitis. She went home and is expecting the condition to clear up in the coming days.

Mary Wolan of Manhattan, Kan., is recovering from a stroke and has also heard that there may be upcoming surgery for her to deal with an irregular heartbeat.

Heather McLendon sent some information about the health of her father, **Charles McLendon**. Following are excerpts: "His new neurologist said that scans are now showing that his stroke was caused by a tiny blocked blood vessel in his brain. It is still partially blocked and Dad isn't getting enough blood flow to the left side of his brain even now. An operation would be too dangerous due to the size of the vessel and would be considered only if Dad were to have another stroke. It has been over a year and Dad still can't communicate. It's like a never-ending game of charades. Not only can he not speak or write, he understands only about a quarter of what he hears. His type of aphasia, Wernicke's aphasia, is the most difficult type to rehabilitate. He goes to speech therapy three times a week. He is improving, but it is painfully slow. He is currently learning how to write his name. Last year, he could only make squiggles. The eye specialist says that scans are now showing damage to Dad's eye caused by the stroke. His vision is 'wavy,' which is disorienting. This can be surgically corrected, but there is so much brain damage that there is a 50-50 chance Dad's brain won't recognize the repair, meaning his vision won't improve at all even after a successful operation. Dad has foot pain. Dad doesn't want to walk at all. The neurologist said that walking is very important for his brain and recovery. Lastly, Dad may have vascular issues in his leg. Thanks for your prayers."

Paul Arnold of Tyler has been diagnosed with cancer of the lymph nodes.

Mary Hofer of Winnipeg, Man., Canada, has been diagnosed with a congestive heart condition and a stroke.

Robert Pindroh of Pasadena, Calif., died on Feb. 9. Please remember his wife, **Anna**, and the rest of the family in your prayers.

Bill Glover of Eugene, Ore., died on Feb. 15. Please remember his wife, **Esther**, and the rest of the family in your prayers.

Marty Scholz of Cheshire, Mass., died on Feb. 19. Please her husband, **Richard**, and the rest of the family in your prayers.

Thought for the week

She is able to sell people on ideas that she's never implemented, doesn't believe in herself, and have never actually worked—anywhere, ever.—*Gregory Drobny*

“Meditate on Whatever Is Lovely”

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 Feb. 23, 2019.

By Dave Havir

BIG SANDY, Texas—Here is one of the best pieces of advice that a mental-health professional can give to people: “Focus upon the positive factors of this life.” It should come as no surprise that this concept is found in the Bible.

One verse that promotes this approach is Philippians 4:8.

Philippians 4:8—“Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy—meditate on these things.”

We began a series to talk about the characteristics mentioned in this verse. Today, we will talk about things that are “lovely.”

Recognize negative

Before we look at this week’s characteristic, I want to remind you about a realistic approach in life—recognize negative, but dwell on positive.

■ Numbers 13:26-33—Although the other spies became preoccupied with the negative factors, Joshua and Caleb recognized the challenges and focused upon God’s promises.

■ Luke 14:26-33—The Son of God’s instruction to count the cost includes recognizing the challenges and focusing upon God’s promises.

Greek word in Philippians 4:8

Let’s notice the Greek word used in Philippians 4:8.

■ *Prospiles* (No. 4375 in *Strong’s Concordance*) is the Greek adjective in Philippians 4:8 translated as “lovely.” It is used only here in the New Testament.

Other translations

Here are a few other examples about

how *prospiles* is translated in other Bible translations.

- Revised Standard Version—“lovely”
- New American Standard Bible—“lovely”
- The Twentieth Century New Testament—“lovable”
- James Moffatt Translation—“attractive”
- The New Testament: An American Translation (Edgar J. Goodspeed)—“amiable”
- The Epistle of Paul (W.J. Conybeare)—“endearing”

While the English word *lovely* may initially spur thoughts of an outward appearance, a Bible student is quick to recognize the importance of focusing upon the deeper motivation of life and the inner beauty of a person.

Deeper motivation

Notice a few examples of the deeper motivation of life.

- Matthew 6:2—Charitable deeds in private.
- Matthew 6:5—Praying in private.
- Matthew 6:16—Fasting in private.

Inner beauty

Notice the inner beauty of a person.

Proverbs 31:25-28—“Strength and honor are her clothing; she shall rejoice in time to come. She opens her mouth with wisdom, and on her tongue is the law of kindness. She watches over the ways of her household, and does not eat the bread of idleness. Her children rise up and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praises her.”

1 Corinthians 13:4-7—“Love suffers long and is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up; does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil; does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth; bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.”