

The Brighton Light

BRIGHTON ARP CHURCH

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APRIL 2011: 'Love So Amazing' "In this the love of God was manifested toward us, that God sent His only begotten Son into the world that we might live through Him. In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to the propitiation for our sins. We love Him because He first loved us." (1 John 4:9, 10&19)

Hymn writers like Isaac Watts wrote from a deep conviction of their own unworthiness and the realization of all that the Lord Jesus accomplished on behalf of all sinners. Read the words to "When I Survey The Wondrous Cross" and you will see reflected in them what the Apostle John gives in the above scriptures.

There is an old snare of the devil which has plagued the church for the very beginning, which I call the 'works righteousness' mentality. It stands in direct opposition to the free grace that God offers in His only begotten Son. Sad to say in many circles it is still alive and doing well. Many today have indeed bought into the idea that there is something more I must do, something more I must give up in order for God to love me, in order for God to accept me. This could not be further from the truth of the teaching of God's holy and inspired Word.

John emphasizes the starting place; "In this the love of God was manifested toward us, that He gave His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him." (1 John 4:9) The only way to life eternal could not be expressed any clearer than what we have in God the Son, Jesus. No greater love can ever be experienced than what we find in our Lord Jesus. If you seek elsewhere, the oldie song; "Searching for love in all the wrong places" will fit your situation well. It will not satisfy the longing of your soul.

The answer to the question 'which comes first', our maneuvering or God's acting is also crystal clear. "In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation (the mercy seat or place of mercy) for our sins." (1 John 4: 10) We must understand that because of the sin nature, no human being is able to do or accomplish anything to merit salvation, let alone anything of eternal significance. This is what Easter is all about. Jesus came to take care of the bondage and weight of sin. I compare it to me trying to lift the Blue Whale over my head. It is too great. I could never, in my strength hope to lift such a weight. Even if I tried, it would frustrate me and I would lose hope.

Salvation comes as one is drawn to Jesus by the Holy Spirit, repents of sin and falls on the wonderful mercy of Jesus. Paul reminds us; "But God demonstrates His love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us." (Romans 5:8) So you see, God does not expect us to do something we could never do. From the very foundation of creation, God had His plan mapped out and ready to be put into place at His timing.

If we cannot praise God for what took place at Easter and what it means to the repentant sinner, we will never be able to praise Him for anything. Our praise should sound like this; "Were the whole realm of nature mine, that were a present far too small; love so amazing, so divine, demands my soul, my life, my all."

Praise God for the cross that Jesus bore! Praise God for Jesus' bodily resurrection and His ascension! Praise God that; "We love Him because He first loved us." (1 John 4:19)

Have a blessed Easter!
Meredith

SERMON SCRIPTURE SELECTIONS FOR THE MONTH:

April 3	Matthew 18:21-35 "That Which Hinder Revival"
April 10	Jeremiah 31:3-12 "Fallen, But Not Forgotten"
April 17	Isaiah 59:14-20 "The Procession of the Redeemer"
April 21 (Maundy Thursday)	Romans 6:12-23 "What God Gives vs Satan"
April 24 (Easter Sunrise)	I Peter 1:13-25 "Rest In Your Hope"



WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

April 2	Mr. and Mrs. Phil Richardson
April 9	Mr. and Mrs. Mike Paladino
April 18	Mr. and Mrs. Dwayne Cranford
April 23	Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Goulder
April 26	Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Owen

NURSERY ATTENDANTS

April 3	Molly Huffman
April 10	Joanna Simonton
April 17	Ashley Goulder
April 24	Linda Boswell

FLOWERS FOR THE MONTH

	Margaret Sherrill
April 3	Lucille Bridges
April 10	Norma & Floyd Columbus In Memory of Mr. Gene Columbus
April 17	Linda Clark In Memory of Mr. Jim Clark
April 24	Easter Lillies



SICK AND SHUT INS:

Joe Anne Alsbrook	Doris Hodges
Mary Frances Bennett	Linda Huffman
Mel Billings Sr.	Swayne Huffman
Mike Boswell	Adam Lewis
Rick Boswell	Racheal Lineberger
Don Brown	Ann Locke
Pam Bundy	Logan Lupinsky
Cov. ARP Church	Julia McCormick
Cooper Curtis	Luke Moncla
Louise Dungy	Martha Lou Moore
John Fletcher	Mike Otis
Cathy Fowler	Carolyn Patrick
Betty Frazier	Geraldine Rhodes
Helen Goulder	Laura Sanders
Kim Gray	Sarah Smith
Melanie Griffin	Cecil Starnes
Jeff Hicks	Joshlin Walter
Dana Hill	Don Legler
Joy Hill	Shelly Kruezfeld
Buford Walker	Barbara (Shelly's Daughter)
Michael Wells	Lucy Krull

PLEASE NOTE: If you have any ideas or suggestions for the church website, please contact Chris Gravley, webmaster, at 901-674-3851 or e-mail at chris_gravley@bellsouth.net.

THE DEACON OF THE MONTH is Verlie Wells, IV. If you have any requests for the deacons, please contact Verlie at 901-603-6509.

INFORMATION NEEDED! We need information for the Brighton Light. We would like to make the church newsletter more interesting and informative. If you have any news about you or your family or any suggestions or ideas, please contact the church secretary.

THE HARRIET LINDERMAN CIRCLE is selling Easter Lilies this year (\$15). If you would like to purchase a lily to be in memory or in honor of someone, please see a member of the Harriet Linderman Circle or sign up on the sheet in the Vestibule. The lilies may be picked up after the Easter Worship Service.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR! THE HARRIET LINDERMAN CIRCLE will be having their "Spring Chicken Dinner" Fundraiser on Saturday, April 9th at 5:30 P.M. There will be lots of fun for everyone so you don't want to miss this! Donations will be accepted at the door. Please come out and support this circle and enjoy the great food, fellowship, and fun.

INDIVIDUALLY WRAPPED CANDY NEEDED for the Easter Egg Hunt. You may drop it off in the Old Kitchen or you can bring it with you to the Women's Ministry meeting on Sunday April 10th at 3:30.

THE SUNDAY SCHOOL Easter Egg Hunt will be Saturday, April 23rd at 2:00 P.M. The age group is toddler to 4th grade. Each child is to bring 3 plastic filled eggs. If there are any questions, please contact Margarett Alsbrook at 476-8356.

THERE WILL BE an Easter Sunrise Service at 7:00 A.M. on April 24th with breakfast to follow. Please make plans to attend. The choir will present the Easter cantata during the Worship Service.

MAUNDY THURSDAY Services will be April 21st at 7:00 P.M. The Lord's Supper will be observed during this service. Please come and take part in this time of worship as we celebrate this Easter season.

PLEASE NOTE: The church is beginning an organized visitation program. We are looking for those persons who feel specifically called to the ministry of in-home visits. This program will consist of once-monthly visits as well as occasional training seminars, and will require a firm commitment by those interested of twelve or more visits per year. To be considered for this new ministry contact Richard Moore @ 476-9682 or the pastor at the church. Please give this opportunity of service to the church your prayerful consideration.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL will be held on Sunday, June 19th – Thursday, June 23rd this year. If you would like to help with VBS in any way, please contact Linda Boswell.

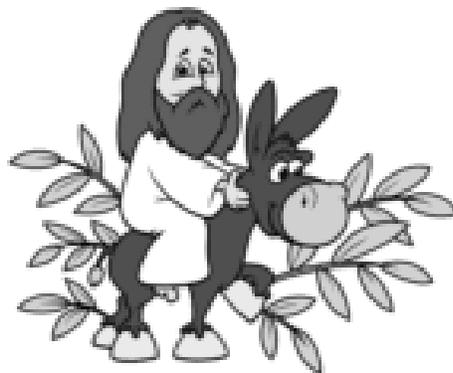
MEN'S MINISTRY will be hosting the Scout Pancake Breakfast on April 30th at 7:00 a.m.

CONGRATULATIONS to McCallie Ruffin and Kaitlyn Moore for their achievement in being inducted into the National Honor Society.

CONGRATULATIONS to Ben Cavin who won 2 Silver and 1 Bronze medal in the Special Olympics Swimming Competition. Way to go Ben!

CONGRATULATIONS to Andrew Cavin who made the A-B Honor roll and got most improved.

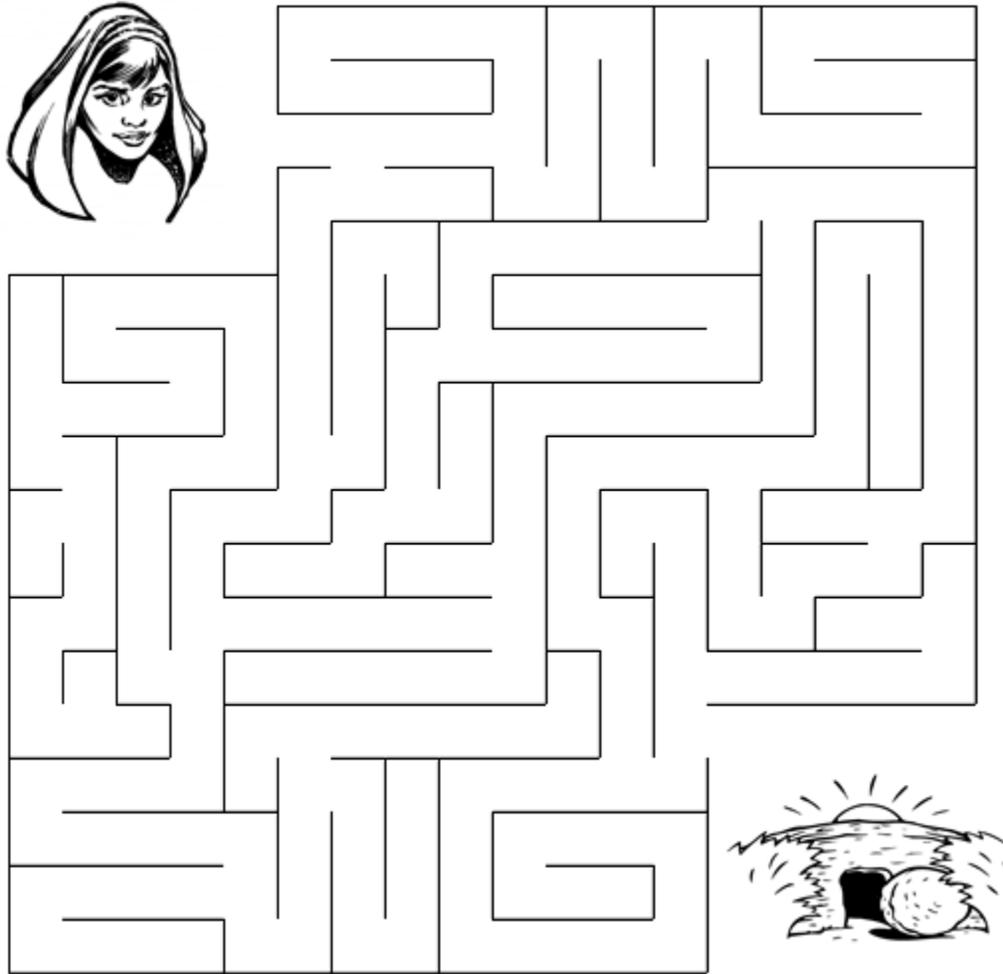
CONGRATULATIONS to Robert Cavin who made the A-B Honor roll. Way to go Boys.



The Empty Tomb

John 20:1-18

Can you help Mary find the way to the empty tomb?



Bible Memory Verse

Mary Magdalene went to the disciples with the news: "I have seen the Lord!"
And she told them that he had said these things to her.
John 20:18 (NIV)