

The Brighton Light

BRIGHTON ARP CHURCH

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APRIL 2012: From death to life. "Beloved, now we are the children of God; and it has not been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him. We know that we have passed from death to life, because we love the brethren. He who does not his brother abides in death." (1John 3:2,3&14)

Everyone deals with the issues of life and death. It is natural for humans to think about the grave and what comes after. All ancient civilizations had their false gods and ideas of how to appease these angry gods. The thought of eternity was always in their minds and what they had to do in order to get to a better place.

Although systems like Hinduism do not believe in heaven or hell, they do believe in the false notion of reincarnation. If you were a bad person and when you died you may be reincarnated as a dung beetle or a mosquito. Their ultimate stage is to reach the state of nothingness (nonexistence). Their system is a cruel one with no grace. The cast system in India comes out this religion. If you are of a certain cast like the untouchables, you will live and die as an untouchable with no hope of anything better.

Knowing that we all will one day die, we are told to be sure to make a will to provide for those we love. Some leave millions to their pets, as if they could care one way or the other. Too many make these plans with little or no thought where they will spend eternity. We are reminded; "For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul?" (Matthew 16:26)

Orthodox Christianity reminds us all that sin has completely cut off any hope of eternal life outside of God's plan of salvation in Jesus. It points to the absolute truth of the scriptures that the Christ, Messiah would have to suffer unbelievably at the hands of His own people and die upon the cross. But, we are also reminded that death could not hold Him, He would indeed conquer death, hell and the grave through His being bodily raised from the dead. Jesus did not faint upon the cross and was placed in the tomb, where He revived and rolled away a ton stone or better. Nor did Jesus rise spiritually as the Jehovah's Witness believe. These are lies from the enemy of the soul. To deny the death and resurrection of Jesus from the dead is the spirit of the anti-Christ.

You see, Satan would have us believe that it does not matter what one believes as long as the person is sincere. He would have us believe that events surrounding the crucifixion and burial happened to man who is still dead and gone. Like his lie of old he says; "Has God indeed said, 'you shall indeed eat of every tree in the garden? The woman said to the serpent, 'we may eat of every tree in the garden, but the fruit of which is in the midst of the garden, God Has said, 'you shall not eat of it, nor shall you touch it lest you die.' Then the serpent said, 'you shall not die.'" (Genesis 3:1b-4)

Satan has done his best to stop God's plan of salvation from being accomplished. But, if you consider the fact that it was his demonic hoard which stirred up the crowd to desire Jesus to be crucified in the first place, how ironic it is. Satan actually helped bring the plan of salvation about. What Satan means for bad, our God uses for our eternal benefit. Genesis 3:15 tells us; "that the Seed of the woman shall crush the head of the serpent."

Jesus defeated all the power of the enemy by His shed blood, death, bodily resurrection and His ascension in the lives of His chosen people. His death/resurrection has brought us from death to life. Celebrate this abundant life with all joy and praise that Jesus has indeed brought us into this holy life for all eternity. HE IS RISEN! Meredith

SERMON SCRIPTURE SELECTIONS FOR THE MONTH:

April 1	Isaiah 59:1-20 "The Lord's Hand Is Not Shortened"	Palm Sunday
April 5	I Corinthians 11:23-29 "The Lord's Supper, A Serious Matter"	Maundy Thursday
April 8	I Corinthians 15:12-19 "The Risen Christ, Our Only Hope"	Sunrise Service
April 15	Romans 8:1-18 "The Blessedness of Sonship"	
April 22	2 Corinthians 4:1-16 "The Gospel of Light lights up a life"	
April 29	Ephesians 2:1-10 "This New Life Moves us Beyond Ourselves"	




SICK AND SHUT INS:

Bennett, Mary Frances	Lewis, Adam
Billings, Mel Sr	Lineberger, Rachael
Boswell, Mike	Locke, Ann
Boswell, Rick	Locke, Mike
Brown, Don	Lupinsky, Logan
Bundy, Pam	McCormick, Julia
Cavin, Henry	Miller, Jason
Culver, Michael	Moncla, Luke
Curtis, Cooper	Montgomery, Madelyn
Dungy, Louise	Moore, Martha Lou
Fletcher, John	Moss, Charlie
Frazier, Betty	Motes, Cindy
Goulder, Helen	Otis, Mike
Griffin, Melanie	Patrick, Carolyn
Harpe, Karen Cavin	Rhodes, Geraldine
Hill, Dana	Sanders, Laura
Hill, Joy	Sigmon, Jaime
Hodges, Doris	Smith, Sarah
Huffman, Linda	Starnes, Cecil
Huffman, Swayne	Walter, Joshlin
Krull, Lucy	Welch, Jack
Legler, Don	McCain, Lisa

FLOWERS FOR THE MONTH

Margaret Sherrill Circle



April 8	Linda Clark In Memory of Mr. Jim Clarke
April 29	Richard/Julia In Honor of Ashley Goulder



WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

April 2	Mr. and Mrs. Phil Richardson
April 23	Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Goulder
April 26	Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Owen



NURSERY ATTENDANTS

April 1	Molly Huffman
April 8	Joanna Simonton
April 15	Ashley Goulder
April 22	Linda Boswell
April 29	Stephanie Moore

CHILDRENS SERMON - APRIL

April 1	-	Amanda Heath
April 8	-	EASTER
April 15	-	Nick Goulder
April 22	-	Margarette Alsbrook
April 29	-	Ashley Goulder



Menu for April

Apr 4 SEDER
Apr 11 Baked Potato
Apr 18 Taco Bar
Apr 25 Family Night

Cost: \$3.00 person
\$10.00 Family

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

1 Gordon Goulder	21 Daniel Gravley
Haley Alsbrook	Sherrie Wells
2 Linda Huffman	Zane Hill, Jr.
7 Mary Grace Simonton	23 Jordan Goulder
12 Shane Boswell	24 Andrew Cavin
14 Lisa Smith	28 Brandon Gravely
15 Gilbert Rowell	29 Allison Kate Scott
Harry Hugues	30 Ashley Goulder
17 John Tom Ruffin	Lucille Bridges
18 James Allen Belk	

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 Nick Goulder. If you have any requests for the deacons, please contact Nick at 901-837-3532.

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.

PLEASE REMEMBER the Passover Seder on Wednesday, April 4th at 6:00 P.M. All are invited.

MAUNDY THURSDAY Services will be April 5th 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.

INDIVIDUALLY WRAPPED CANDY NEEDED for the Easter Egg Hunt. You may drop it off in the Fellowship Hall.

THE SUNDAY SCHOOL Easter Egg Hunt will be Saturday, April 7th 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 Margarette Alsbrook at 476-8356

THE SPECIAL EASTER OFFERING will be received Easter Sunday April 8th. This offering helps to support the ARP Foundation, Bonclarken, the Christian Education Ministry, Erskine College, and World Witness. Please give prayerful consideration to your part in this offering.

THERE WILL BE an Easter Sunrise Service at 7:00 A.M. on April 8th with breakfast to follow. Please make plans to attend.

EASTER SUNDAY April 8th during the Worship Service the adult choir will present their Easter Cantata. The choir has been practicing diligently for this presentation. Come and bring a guest on Sunday morning to enjoy this Easter presentation and to worship Christ the Lord!

PLEASE NOTE: On April 15th the Diaconate will have a financial meeting immediately following the worship service.

RECOVERY OF LOSS MEETING: This support group meets every 3rd Tuesday at 7 P.M. in the Prayer Room. The group is lead by Ms. Laura Saunders. This meeting is for anyone who is going through trials of life and needs someone to talk to and pray with. The scriptures remind us to, "Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep. Be of the same mind toward one another." (Romans 12:15-16a)

PLEASE NOTE: Saturday, April 28th is a Work Day at the Church.

CONGRATULATIONS to Kaitlyn Moore who was chosen Academic All-Stars-Music. Way to go Kaitlyn!