

The Brighton Light

BRIGHTON ARP CHURCH

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'GOD HAS A PLACE FOR YOU'

With summer vacations ending and school getting ready to let back in, hard to believe that it is time to start our 'Supper at Six'. As you think about this and other ministries of our church, I want to ask a few questions. Did you know that God has a place for you in His great work? Did you know that the He has gifted each of us in His church for His purposes and for His work?

As a sophomore in high school, I was 1st string J.V. football which made me 3rd string varsity, which meant we were the tackling dummies for the 1st and 2nd string teams. The J.V. team never played a minute in any varsity game. However, I would say we actually practiced more than any of the starters. We had to learn all the plays in case one of the 1st or 2nd stringers got injured. Just because we did not play on Friday nights, did this mean we were not important to those who played? Admittedly, in the eyes of some of those who started we were nothing but peons. The answer that question is, no! Some like the 3rd string players are needed to make those who will be seen on Friday nights play better.

In the body of Christ each believer is important to our Lord, not just the pastor, the elder, the deacon or the Sunday School teacher. We are all the same and precious in the sight of Jesus. Before Christ Jesus claimed us for His own, we all stood condemned to spend an eternity in hell. We are reminded; "There is no one righteous no not one...For all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God." Romans 3:10, 23) When God calls us to be His people, set His seal upon us, He still sees us all equally. Paul also tells us: "There is neither Jew nor Greek, bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for we are all one in Christ." (Galatians 3:28)

God has a place for us and has placed us in this body, at this particular time to accomplish His work. One may say or think; "I don't have any gifts or abilities that God could use in my church." Paul reminds us; "Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, let us use them;" (Romans 12:6a) As one can see, each person is gifted by the Holy Spirit by the grace of God to what needs to done within and outside the church.

Sometimes we may think we have finally done our part, now it's time to retire. Peter told the believers that; "Yes, I think it is right, as long as I am in this tent, to stir you up by reminding you," (2 Peter 1:13) So, it seems for Peter, retirement came when the Lord called him to his eternal home. Until that time he would press on sharing the gospel.

We must remember that each of us as a believer has been gifted for the purpose of serving where our Lord God desires. "God has set the members, every one of them in the body, as it has pleased Him." (1 Corinthians 12:18) Therefore, no matter how big or small a job may seem to be in the church, do it with all the zest and joy in the Lord you can muster. Please understand it is not busyness I am talking about. It is fulfillment of the calling the Lord has placed upon each of us. What a joy it is to realize God has set me in this body of Christ for the benefit of His Kingdom at this particular time.

Your Pastor,

Meredith Cavin

THE DEACON OF THE MONTH is Nick Goulder. If you have any requests for the deacons, please contact Nick at 837-3532.

SERMON SCRIPTURE SELECTIONS FOR THE MONTH:

August 2	Acts 11:1-18 "Not an Elitist Gospel"
August 9	Acts 18:24-28 "The 'G' Team"
August 16	2 Corinthians 1:12-24 "God is Not Wishy-Washy"
August 23	Luke 9:28-42 "Back to the Ole Grind"
August 3	1 Corinthians 10:1-13 "Look to the Past and Be Wise"

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES FOR THE MONTH

August 3	Mr. and Mrs. Keith Walker
August 10	Mr. and Mrs. Jimmy Wylie
August 18	Mr. and Mrs. David Templeton
August 22	Mr. and Mrs. John Tom Ruffin
August 30	Mr. and Mrs. Joe Sides
August 31	Mr. and Mrs. Cecil Starnes

FLOWERS FOR THE MONTH

Mary Steele Circle

NURSERY ATTENDANTS FOR THE MONTH

August 2	Margarette Alsbrook
August 9	Katie Ruffin
August 16	Rhonda Goulder
August 23	Joanna Simonton
August 30	Beth Crum

SATURDAY, August 8th from 7:00 A.M. through 1:00 P.M. the Women's Ministry will be sponsoring a yard sale at the church with proceeds going toward the Kitchen Fund. Hot dogs and cold drinks will be sold at 10:30 A.M. If you have items to donate to the sale, please call 476-7233 or 476-9315.

SUNDAY, August 30th is "Rally Day". We will be doing things a little different this year. Our Worship Service will be at 10:00 A.M. and Promotion will be at 11:00 A.M. Youth Sunday will also be held on this day. Afterwards, there will be lunch on the grounds with activities and homemade ice cream.

PLEASE NOTE that the Bible Study time on Wednesday nights has been changed to 7:00 P.M. We will go back to the 6:30 P.M. time when Supper at Six and the Youth Groups start back on Wednesday, September 2nd.

WE NEED volunteers to be responsible for the kitchen during our monthly Family Night Dinners. Each Family Night needs a team of four people. There will be a sign up sheet for volunteers in the Vestibule. Please contact Linda Boswell for more information.

THE MISSISSIPPI VALLEY PRESBYTERIAL will be held on Friday, August 21st and Saturday, August 22nd at the French Camp Presbyterian Church. If you are interested in attending this meeting, please contact Linda Boswell. Please be in prayer for this meeting and all of those who will be attending.

MISSION MINUTES

This month I want to share some thoughts on our mission work trip to French Camp, Mississippi. I believe God showed us what can be accomplished when we are willing to go where He leads. This trip wasn't about how many people were able to go, but about a heartfelt attitude of service. Although people discussed the possibility of going to French Camp earlier in the year, we were unable to attain information or set a date until Meredith met with their pastor and elders while at Synod. This did not leave much time for planning, and more than likely limited the ability of some to participate, however, much was accomplished through not only the physical labor that was completed, but in the sowing of spiritual seed among the community of believers. This is a report of our 2009 work trip for missions. Maybe some more of us will be able to participate in the future!

Brighton ARP sent a work crew of 5 adults and 4 young people to French Camp, Mississippi on Monday, July 6, 2009. The purpose of our work was to do landscape maintenance, demolish a garage, paint and repair plumbing in a house the church is using for Sunday School Classes. We were able to accomplish all of these tasks and more. Upon arrival, we ate lunch, met with Alex and Mary Nell Coblenz, took a tour of French Camp, and then began our work.

Monday afternoon was spent trimming bushes away from the house, in preparation for power washing Tuesday morning. That evening we were feted at a community wide ice cream social attended by many of the town's residents. This was a lot of fun and the homemade ice cream and cake were a real treat. This event is always held the first Monday in July, and while not the reason we planned to go that week, will definitely influence the dates we go back!

Tuesday morning Julia Moore headed the girl's crew prepping and painting a Sunday School room in the educational wing of the church while outside Meredith and the boys demolished an old pole garage. Richard Moore and Anthony Billings were underneath the house repairing and replacing leaky pipes. That afternoon the house was power washed in preparation for a first coat of paint Wednesday morning. Tuesday evening was a time of relaxation spent fishing and swimming. As the pole barn was torn down all materials were separated and everything that could be reused was saved and transported for storage until needed. French Camp makes good use of all resources and will reuse the building materials as needed.

Wednesday, Anthony trimmed branches away from the power lines with the help of a backhoe bucket and extension pruners. That was an experience! Talk about rising to the occasion! We removed four large trailer loads of debris from the area. Our young people rode horses in the late afternoon with the campers at French Camp and we all enjoyed hearing a former FCA student who is serving as a missionary at church that evening. Coke floats were the treat of the evening.

Thursday we applied the second coat of paint to the house and were able to power wash one side of the church. That evening we experienced Christmas in July at the Camp, followed with a delicious chilled watermelon. We enjoyed a little fun of our own with a seed spitting contest. We returned to Brighton On Friday.

We had a wonderful mission experience. We stayed in one of the dormitories at the Academy and ate our meals in the cafeteria with students attending summer school. Every day began with a Morning Devotional led by Meredith and ended with a time of personal prayer and Bible Study. We were able to accomplish everything we had planned to do and more. Four of our youth, Haley and Lilly Alsbrook, John Hugues, and Kaitlyn Moore worked alongside the adults, Richard and Julia Moore, Anthony Billings, Benjamin Cavin and Meredith Cavin.

We do plan to participate in a mission work experience again next year. It is notable that our youngest participant is entering the 5th grade this fall, too young to participate in our denominational mission trips, but just right for this opportunity.

We discovered that mission work is accomplished in many different ways and trips don't have to be that far away. Mission work is simply finding a need and being willing to meeting it. Maybe our experience will encourage some of our other congregations to build relationships with one another. God provided volunteers with the ability to accomplish the work that was needed. And we were Blessed by the people of French Camp.

Susan Cavin