

The Brighton Light

BRIGHTON ARP CHURCH

P.O. Box 28

Brighton, Tennessee 38011

Web site address - www.brightonarpchurch.org

E-mail address - baarp@brightonarpchurch.org

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December 2011: Just how important is the virgin birth. "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take to you Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. And she shall bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name Jesus, for He shall save His people from their sins. So all this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophets, saying; 'Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel, which is being interpreted as, 'God with us.'" (Matthew 1:20-23)

Ah, its Christmas time, the time when we think and sing songs about a baby who was born over 2000 years ago. We have plays, parties and over spend on presents, and find ourselves wanting all of this to end soon. This is why I want us to contemplate the absolute need of the virgin birth for Christianity. Who knows, maybe this will bring freshness back to Christmas. Do you understand this? It is one thing for a non-Christian to not understand or even deny that anything like this could ever happen. However, it is a completely different matter for anyone who would call themselves a Christian and yet deny the absolute necessity of the virgin birth for Jesus' claim of being "the only way, the truth and the life, and no one comes to the Father but through Me" (John 14:6) to be true.

One of my mentors as a young pastor was Dr. Charles Edwards. When a person was being examined or transferring into First Presbytery, Dr. Edwards would always ask this question; "Do you believe in the virgin birth?" Other questions would follow if he felt the man was beating around the bush or that the man said the virgin birth was not that important.

In 1982 the P.C.U.S. and the United Presbyterian churches were discussing unification. On the front cover of The Presbyterian Outlook they listed the people from each of the denominations and key issues of debate. One representative from the United Presbyterian Church said; "I believe the virgin birth is not important". I was floored when I read this and ask a friend of mine who was a pastor in the P.C.U.S. if he felt this would stop the consideration on unification. He told me that it would not even slow things up. I told him that A.R.P.'s would call a halt to any further talks. Volumes of books have been written on the virgin birth and its importance, but look how far much of the church has strayed.

Like Dr. Edwards and countless others, I believe in the complete necessity of Jesus' virgin birth for God's plan of salvation to be carried out as the Bible presents it. If you strip away the virgin birth of Jesus, He would have been conceived as any other baby with a sin nature. Jesus would not be the sinless, spotless Lamb of God who would take away the sin of the world. In other words, we all would still be in sin's death grip. His blood could never set the prisoner free. To put it plainly, we gentiles would still be in a lost state with no hope for eternity, except for an eternity in hell.

I honestly feel sorry for those in denominations who deny our Lord's miraculous conception and birth. Being deceived, they do not have a biblical hope for eternity. However, we who believe in the truth must be witnesses of the complete gospel to a lost and dying world. We must echo what the angels said; "Jesus will save His people from their sin"; for God is truly with us.

May we contemplate the truth of Jesus' conception and birth, and understand just how important it is in the plan of salvation. Celebrate this holy and wonderful gift that will be for all eternity.

Have a blessed Christmas.

Love, Meredith

SERMON SCRIPTURE SELECTIONS FOR THE MONTH:

December 4	Jeremiah 33:9-17 "Hope in the Midst of Desolation"	Advent Wreath – Andrew Cavin
December 11	Hebrews 1:1-10 "God's Supreme Revelation"	Advent Wreath – Mary Grace Simonton
December 18	Isaiah 5:1-10 "Herald God's Work"	Advent Wreath – Blake Curtis
December 25	Matthew 1:18-25 "God's Plan turns Fear into Hope"	Advent Wreath – Ben Cavin



WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

December 4	Mr. and Mrs. Nathan Hoots
December 12	Mr. and Mrs. Kinney Bridges
December 19	Mr. and Mrs. Zane Hill

NURSERY ATTENDANTS

December 5	Stephanie Moore
December 12	Amanda Heath
December 19	Margarette Alsbrook
December 26	Rhonda Goulder

FLOWERS FOR THE MONTH

Harriet Linderman Circle

Dec 11	Molly Anne Heath In Honor of Margarette Alsbrook
Dec 18	Poinsettias



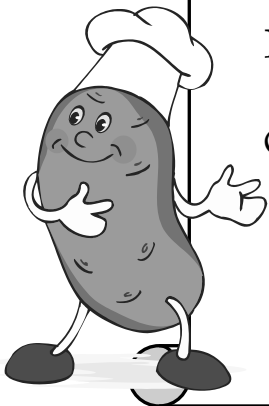
SICK AND SHUT INS:

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

Menu for December

Dec 7 Spaghetti

Cost: \$3.00 person
\$10.00 Family



DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

2	Joe Wesley Whitmer	15	Ricki Pannell
3	Brandon Smith	16	Danny Goulder
	Keith Walker	20	Terry Goulder
5	Betty Joe Owen	21	Lilly Alsbrook
6	Jean Molder	23	Jennifer Parr
7	Jeannie Scott		Michael Miller
12	Margarette Alsbrook	24	Leah Pugh
14	Amy Trotter	29	Ronnie Bridges
	Debbie Griffin	31	Jerry Owen, Jr

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 Chris Gravley. If you have any requests for the deacons, please contact Chris at 901-674-3851.

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 CHRISTMAS PLAY AND SUNDAY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PARTY will be on Wednesday, December 14th at 6:00 P.M. The Christmas Play will be first, followed by the Christmas Party and a time of refreshments and fellowship. Please bring finger foods for the Christmas party and remember to bring extra food to be used for the Christmas plates to be delivered to the sick and shut-ins.

THE CHRISTMAS CANTATA AND CANDLELIGHTING SERVICE will be on Sunday, December 18th at 5:00 P.M. Please be sure to attend this beautiful service and invite your family and friends.

POINSETTIAS may be purchased in memory of or in honor of someone for the Worship and Candlelighting Service on Sunday, December 18th. You may take your plant home after the Candlelighting Service. The poinsettias are \$15 each. You may pay by cash or checks payable to the Harriet Linderman Circle. There is a signup sheet in the vestibule for the orders. Contact Joanna Simonton at 476-7750 if you have any questions.

THE ANNUAL CHRISTMAS CAROLING is scheduled for Wednesday December 21st at 5:00 p.m. The group will visit the sick and shut-ins and others in the area bringing plates of goodies and the gift of song. Everyone is invited to participate.

NEW YEARS EVE CELEBRATION will be December 31st at 7:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Come out and enjoy a time of good food and fellowship as we give thanks to our Lord for 2011 and 2012 yet to come.

PLEASE TURN IN your information for the church yearbook as soon as possible. Please inform the church office of any changes or corrections that need to be made as well.

CONGRATULATIONS to the 2011 Northwest Senior High Honor Choir: Brandee Elston, Holly Elston, Kaitlyn Moore, Alexi Starnes, and Chris Woods

