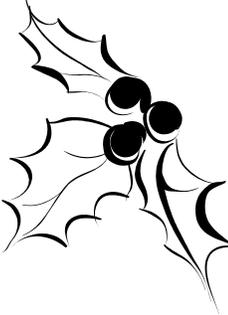


# The Brighton Light



BRIGHTON ARP CHURCH

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Volume XLIV

December 2012

Number 12

**DECEMBER 2012:** 'How Is The Heart Of Our God?' "The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance." (2 Peter 3:9)

What kind of heart do you and I have? If you are like me, your heart will be this way one moment, compassionate and kind, and change to vengeful, resentful and even hoping for calamity. We cannot see beyond the situation or peer into a person's motives for what he or she said or did. Too often we react so quickly that the person is not given a chance to explain. We give in to our emotions which carry us down a path which is also destructive to us as well.

Have you heard or said; "I will give them a piece of my mind. Or, "I hate what she did. I will never be able to forget." I am reminded a friend told me, "I said what came to my mind. I gave them a piece of mind." After we talked for awhile, I asked him if he had given any thought to what he had said, and that perhaps he gave a piece of his mind he could ill afford to lose. It is not wise to say what first may come to mind, for we most likely speak in haste. Proverbs 15:1 states; "A soft answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger." And in 16:32; "He who is slow to anger is better than the mighty, and he rules his spirit than he who takes a city."

Now we come to the issue of not forgetting. "I will forgive, but I cannot forget." If we do not try to forget what was done or said by an individual, the likely hood of bringing it up again is almost a sure thing. This may indicate we never really forgave in the first place and it may mean that we really do not understand forgiveness ourselves or we have not experienced it. In the Bible Jesus teaches some tough lessons on not forgiving.

I say this to stress that we are to; "Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus," (Philippians 2:5) Remember what He said on the cross; "Father, forgive them for they know not what they do." (Luke 23:34) As Christians we are to emulate the Prince of Peace, Jesus. With this will come the breaking down of the walls that separate us and we will see our Lord God as the faithful promise keeper. "Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful." (Hebrews 10:23)

Think of the amount of time between the first prophecy in Genesis and the fulfillment of all the Old Testament prophecies concerning His first coming. There were those who were still looking with anticipation for the fulfillment. There were naysayers, scoffers then and there are naysayers, scoffers today. We need to understand that the reason for this time between the first and the second coming is because of the very nature of God. Our God "is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance." (2 Peter 3:9c) It was the same heart as expressed in Ezekiel 18:23; "Do I have any pleasure at all that the wicked should die?" says the Lord God, 'and not that he should turn from his ways and live?' Once a person dies their eternity is set. God the Holy Spirit is working in the hearts and minds, calling people to faith in Christ through the repentance of his or her sins and given the gift of salvation.

Jesus the Messiah, born of the virgin Mary was born to die on the cross, rise bodily from the dead and is coming again for His Own. Let us hold fast to that which is true, because our God is the faithful promise keeper. Family of God may the Prince of Peace, the One who is to come, fill our hearts and lives with His peace, grace and love.

Have a blessed Christmas! Meredith.

## SERMON SCRIPTURE SELECTIONS FOR THE MONTH:

December 2	Isaiah 61:1-3,8-11	Advent Wreath – Molly Anne Heath "Rejoice in the Good News"
December 9	Isaiah 35:1-10	Advent Wreath – Andrew Cavin "The Highway of the Lord"
December 16	2 Peter 3:1-11	Advent Wreath – Blain Curtis "The Lord Does When & Where as He Desires"
December 23	Matthew 11:1-18	Advent Wreath – Lilly Alsbrook "Who Is This Jesus?"
December 30	Romans 11:33 – 12:2	Advent Wreath – Ben Cavin "How Wonderful & Marvelous Is Our Lord"



### SICK AND SHUT INS:

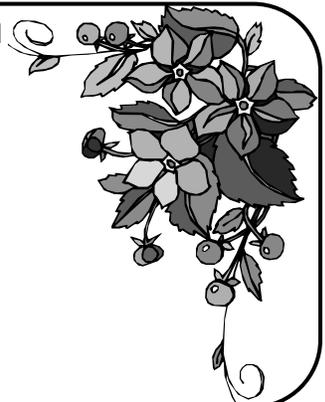
Bennett, Mary Frances	Locke, Mike
Boswell, Mike	Lupinsky, Logan
Boswell, Rick	McCain, Lisa
Brown, Don	Miller, Jason
Cavin, Henry	Moore, Martha Lou
Culver, Michael	Moss, Charlie
Curtis, Cooper	Moncla, Luke
Dungy, Louise	Motes, Cindy
Goulder, Helen	Otis, Mike
Griffin, Melanie	Patrick, Carolyn
Goulder, Gordon	Rhodes, Geraldine
Hill, Dana	Sigmon, Jaime
Hodges, Doris	Sanders, Laura
Huffman, Linda	Walter, Joshlin
Krull, Lucy	Welch, Jack
Legler, Don	Wells, Michael
Lewis, Adam	Pugh, Kaleb
Lineberger, Rachael	Tyler, Jean
Locke, Ann	Wells, Whit
Goulder, Bobbie	Campbell, Juanita
Yarbro, Wink	Delashmit, Matt

### FLOWERS FOR THE MONTH

Harriet Linderman

Dec. 9 Molly Anne Heath  
In Honor of  
Margarette Alsbrook

Dec. 23 POINSETTIAS



### 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 2	Stephanie Moore
December 9	Amanda Heath
December 16	Margarette Alsbrook
December 23	Rhonda Goulder
December 30	Molly Huffman

### CHILDRENS SERMON – December

December 2	-	Amanda Heath
December 9	-	John Moore
December 16	-	Denise Moore
December 23	-	Lilly



# December Menu

Dec 5 Breakfast  
 Dec 12 Turkey Dressing  
 Dec 19 CHRISTMAS PARTY

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](mailto: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.

**PLEASE NOTE:** We would like to give an update on the **"SICK AND SHUT IN LIST"**. If you have added a family member or friend to the list please give me an update on them. Please write the information on paper so that I can have accurate information. You can either give to me, Meredith, a Deacon, an Elder or you can drop off in the office.

**POINSETTIAS** may be purchased in memory of or in honor of someone for the Worship and Candlelighting Service on Sunday, December 23<sup>rd</sup>. 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 CHRISTMAS PLAY AND SUNDAY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PARTY** will be on Wednesday, December 19<sup>th</sup> 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 23<sup>rd</sup> at 5:00 P.M. Please be sure to attend this beautiful service and invite your family and friends.

**THE ANNUAL CHRISTMAS CAROLING** is scheduled for Friday December 21<sup>st</sup> 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 31<sup>st</sup> 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 2012 and 2013 yet to come.

**PLEASE NOTE:** It's Church yearbook time and we need to start updating! Please inform the church office of any changes, corrections or additions that need to be made.

