



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 2013: 'The Manger Is In The Shadow Of The Cross' "He that lives in sin is of devil; for the devil has sinned from the very beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil." (1 John 3:8)

Governments, family, friends and people in general will eventually let us down. We, as well, will let people down. It is sad, but promises are made sometimes with no intention of keeping them. This is true even in the church. For this reason we do not need to elevate any person so high that when they let us down that this is transferred to our trust in our Lord and in His word.

These past two Adult Quarterlies have focused on how God is a covenant keeping God and is completely faithful and trustworthy. Friends, family and officials may fail us, but the living Lord God will never leaves us, nor let us down. We may grow distant from our Lord however, He has promised He will ever be present with His children, upholding and keeping each of us. He is always seeking to draw us back, close to Himself.

God's purpose, His plan, His covenant will be accomplished in detail as He has set out in His holy word, according to His timing. Simply because these do not come to pass as quickly one thinks they should, people across the ages hardened their hearts to God's promises. The Apostle Peter tells us; "that scoffers will come in the last days, walking according to their own lust, and saying, 'Where is the promise of His coming? For since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of creation.'" (2 Peter 3:3b&4) Our Lord never acts hastily like we have a tendency to do. "The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness; but is long-suffering toward us, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance." 2 Peter 3:9 God's promise will not come to completion until that last person comes to repentance.

God the Son came precisely when it was planned for Him to come. Not one moment earlier or later. The situation was this, most people were not considering or even thinking that such a miraculous event like this could ever take place. Many were being taught that the Messiah would be coming as a conquering king not as a baby born in lowly means. Perhaps this is the reason so many could understand that this Child was the consolation of Israel. Many of the political and religious leadership of the time were more concerned with their status and keeping their positions of power and authority. Don't think that they did not know the scriptures concerning the Messiah. They chose to ignore and not believe them. They knew where the Child would be, in Bethlehem. Their motive for telling the wise men was so they could kill this Child, not worship Him.

In fulfillment of Genesis 3:15, Jesus came to crush the head of the serpent, Satan. Don't allow sentimentality to cloud our hearts and minds to the truth of God's word. O yes, be thankful and rejoice over Jesus' holy birth, but keep in mind that 33 years later He would be beaten to point where He was unrecognizable and crucified, shedding His blood and dying on the cross, but bodily rising from the grave to "destroy the works of the devil". The enemy of God and the hater of the human soul has tried his best to deceive humanity into thinking less and less that God's plan of salvation has been accomplished. Nothing else can be done to make it any better. Praise the Lord for His amazing and unbelievable love which He has expressed to us. May we rest in the assurance that all the scriptures have and are being fulfilled precisely as God has determined them to be.

Have a blessed Christmas! Meredith

SERMON SCRIPTURE SELECTIONS FOR THE MONTH:

December 1	Luke 1:63-80 "The Faithfulness of God"	Advent Wreath – Molly Anne Heath
December 8	Ephesians 3:1-19 "The God of the Ages Has Been Revealed"	Advent Wreath – Blain Curtis
December 15	Rev. Matthew Heathman Isaiah 9	Advent Wreath – Haley Alsbrook
December 22	John 3:14-21	Advent Wreath – Emily Kirk
December 29	Matthew 24:36-44 "Watch and Pray"	Advent Wreath – Kirsten Rettig

SICK AND SHUT INS:

Bennett, Mary Frances	Locke, Mike
Boswell, Mike	London, Peggy
Bridges, Lucille	Lupinsky, Logan
Cavin, Henry	McCain, Lisa
Cavin, Meredith	McCain, Pat
Culver, Anthony	Molder, Ruby
Culver, Michael	Moncla, Luke
Curtis, Cooper	Moore, Martha Lou
Goulder, Bobbie	Moore, Stephanie
Goulder, Gordon	Moss, Charlie
Goulder, Helen	Otis, Mike
Goulder, Keith	Patrick, Carolyn
Griffin, Melanie	Pugh, Kaleb
Hill, Dana	Rhodes, Geraldine
Hill, Joy	Sanders, Laura
Hubbard, Kristi	Smith, Mary Frances
Huffman, Linda	Stitt, Sam
Legler, Don	Tyler, Jean
Lewis, Adam	Welch, Jack
Lineberger, Rachael	Wells, Whit
Locke, Ann	Winford, Sherry
Owen, Jerry	Yarbro, Pam

FLOWERS FOR THE MONTH

Harriet Linderman

Dec. 8 Molly Anne Heath
In Honor of
Margarette Alsbrook

Dec. 15 - 22 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

December 1	Vickie Hugues
December 8	Helen Woods
December 15	Margarette
December 22	Stephanie Moore
December 29	Amanda Heath

CHILDRENS SERMON – December

December 1 Susan Cavin
December 8 Nick Goulder
December 15 Margarette Alsbrook
December 22 Julia Moore
December 29 Dr. Cavin



December Menu

Dec 4 Chicken Spaghetti

Dec 11 Baked Potato Bar

Dec 18 CHRISTMAS PLAY

Cost: \$3.00 person
\$10.00 Family

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- | | | | |
|----|---------------------|----|-----------------|
| 2 | Joe Wesley Whitmer | 16 | Danny Goulder |
| 3 | Brandon Smith | 20 | Terry Goulder |
| | Keith Walker | 21 | Lilly Alsbrook |
| 5 | Betty Joe Owen | 23 | Jennifer Parr |
| 6 | Jean Molder | | Michael Miller |
| 7 | Jeannie Scott | 24 | Leah Pugh |
| 9 | Anne Campbell | 29 | Ronnie Bridges |
| 12 | Margarette Alsbrook | 31 | Jerry Owen, Jr. |
| 14 | Amy Trotter | | Kate Campbell |
| | Debbie Griffin | | |

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 Alton Woods. If you have any requests for the deacons, please contact Alton at 901-837-8950.



Upcoming Events

POINSETTIAS may be purchased in memory of or in honor of someone for the Worship and Candlelighting Service on Sunday, December 22nd. 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 18th 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 22nd 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 Saturday December 21st at 4:00 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 2013 and 2014 yet to come.

FOOD PANTRY is in need of all kinds of food items! We are running low.

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.

CALLED CONGREGATIONAL MEETINGS

- Sunday December 8th Election of 2 Elders and Presentation/Adoption of Budget for 2014.
- Sunday December 22nd Election of 3 Deacons and the Election of Congregational officers.

