

The Brighton Light

BRIGHTON ARP CHURCH

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Volume XLIX

February 2017

Number 2

One of the appealing aspects of moving to Brighton, Tennessee, (and away from the big city of Louisville, Kentucky) is knowing that I would be near other Associate Reformed Presbyterian churches. Louisville is a city of around 1 million people, and yet there is only one ARP church in the entire city (and the nearest ARP church is over 3 hours away!). So, whenever I would tell people that I was an ARP pastor, most had no idea what that actually meant.

Perhaps you have run into that problem yourself. When you tell people that you are an ARP, do you ever get a blank stare? It would be helpful to explain what ARP means, as simply as possible. So, for the next three editions of *The Brighton Light*, I want to look at what those 3 letters mean, in reverse order, starting with the “P.”

The “P,” of course, stands for “Presbyterian.” It probably isn’t the easiest word to spell, and many folks do not know what it means, beyond being the name of a denomination. Presbyterian is actually derived from a biblical word that refers to a form of church government in which the overseeing (or the “shepherding”) is done by a group of elders. In fact, “Presbyterian” comes from the Greek word for “elder.” When the Council of Jerusalem is called in Acts 15, those who attend are apostles and elders (Acts 15:6). After spending considerable time in the city of Ephesus, Paul delivers a farewell address to the elders in that city, warning them to watch over their flock, the church (Acts 20:17-31). Titus is instructed to appoint elders where there are churches throughout Crete (Titus 1:5). And Timothy was ordained to the ministry by a group of elders (literally, a “presbytery” or “body of elders”; see 1 Timothy 4:14). These elders are godly men who watch over the church and are concerned with the spiritual needs of the members, committing themselves to prayer and the word in order to lead God’s people. The name “Presbyterian” simply reflects the way God has established, through His word, for His people to be watched, guarded, and fed within His church. In our current Presbyterian system, our church is a part of a geographical presbytery of other churches, and all the churches in our denomination are part of a national body called General Synod. Sometimes Presbyterianism is referred to as a “connectional church,” since our churches are not independent but linked to one another through presbyteries and Synod.

In addition to being a biblical term, Presbyterian is also an historical term. It is most closely associated with John Knox, the Scottish Reformer. Knox spent some time in the city of Geneva and was greatly influenced by the theology of John Calvin. When Knox returned to Scotland in 1559, he brought with him a form of church government (which was dubbed “Presbyterianism”). In 1560, with the adoption of the Scottish Confession of Faith, Presbyterianism became the official church (or “kirk”) of Scotland. Presbyterianism was further solidified nearly a century later with the Westminster Confession of Faith (completed in 1646 and adopted by the Scottish kirk in 1647). Presbyterians were among those who traveled to the New World and helped colonize what would later become the United States. In fact, the Associated Reformed Presbyterian Church dates back to the beginning of the United States, having been established in 1782, soon after the end of the Revolutionary War.

The next time someone asks what it means to be a Presbyterian, tell them it is a biblical and historical denomination. While it is important that a Christian denomination has its roots in history, it is even more important that it has its origin in the word of God. Being Presbyterian is the best of both worlds.

Prayer List:

Bennett, Mary F – Shut in
Billings, Richard – (Denise’s Dad) Cancer
Boswell, Charles – Cancer
Boswell, Mike – Health issues
Bryant, Ty – Infant, Heart
Cothran, Bill – Health issues
Goulder, Helen – Brookhaven Senior Living
Goulder, Martha Jean – Shut In
Lineberger, Rachael
Hopper, Claude – Shut in
Locke, Mike - (Vickie’s brother)Health Issues
London, Peggy
Lupinsky, Logan
McCain, Pat – Health Issues
McCain, Ken – Health Issues
McCain, Kenny – Health Issues
Moncla, Luke
Moore, Martha Lou – Shut in
Columbus, Norma – Health issues

Moss, Charlie
Otis, Mike
Pugh, Kaleb – (Laura Kiphart’s grandson)
Stitt, Sam – Health issues
Trotter, June – Shut in
Tyler, Jean – Shut in
Trotter, Jane – Heart Issues
Trotter, June – Shut in
Wells, Whit – Health Issues
White, Bob – Back at work, more surgery
Williams, Sandy – (Huffman family)Cancer
Wilson, Glenda – Bone Cancer
Winford, Sherry – Health issues
Yarbro, Ina – Gallbladder issues
Young, Robert – Heart Issues
Young, Lois – Heart Issues
Heath, Kristin - Cancer
Ferrell, Lynn – Ken & Pat’s Niece - Cancer

Military

Donahoo, Tim	Starnes, Austin	Hill, Debra	Hunt, Boyce
Dooley, Rod	Heathman,Matthew	Young III, Robert “Trip”	

Missionaries

Coad, Jim & Gala Rebekah Carson

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

February 23 Mr. and Mrs. John Yarbro

NURSERY ATTENDANTS

February 5	Lydia Maxwell
February 12	Alton Woods
February 19	Ashley Goulder
February 26	Helen Woods

CHILDRENS SERMON

February 5	Johnny Scott
February 12	Slade Templeton
February 19	Rev. Tim Philli
February 26	Lilly Alsbrook

February Menu

Feb 1	Mac N Cheese
Feb 8	Sloppy Joes
Feb 15	Soup (Vegetable / Chicken noodle
Feb 22	Family Night

Cost: \$3.00 person
\$10.00 Family

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

1	Emil-Grace Tia White	16	Norma Columbus
9	Samantha Wells	24	Shirley Kennedy
11	Cassie Cranford		Verlie Wells, IV
12	Charlotte Williams	26	Christi Huffman
13	Sarah Huffman		Jean Chisolm
15	Gwen Goulder	28	Robin Gravley
	Joe Anne Alsbrook		



Upcoming Events

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

PLEASE NOTE If anyone is sick, in need of prayer or a visit, please contact Milton Murphy 901-476-2808.

PLEASE NOTE: McCallie Ruffin will be raising money to attend her mission trip to Belize. If you would like to make donations to assist her in this wonderful experience you can make checks out to her "McCallie Ruffin" and give to Mr. Joe or Mrs. Caroline Sides.

PRAYER LIST: Thank you for the updates on the Prayer List. There are names still on the list that people do not know or have any information on. Keep the updates coming! Thanks!

PLEASE NOTE: The Sunday Evening Service will begin on March 12th at 6 p.m.

PLEASE NOTE: Workers Council meeting will be Tuesday February 7 at 7 P.M. in the Fellowship Hall.

