

The Brighton Light

BRIGHTON ARP CHURCH

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Number 1

Worship as Work

It may surprise many of our congregation to learn that our new pastor has in the past been an avid “blogger” (a blogger is someone who writes, or “Blogs”, his or her opinions on a weblog). In the past I had read many of his blogs as a matter of both curiosity and inspiration. With Tim recently being installed in our pulpit, I decided to review some of those blogs to reacquaint myself with his views and posts. During that browsing session I found a post entitled “Preparing for the Lord’s Day” which reminded me of some similar thoughts I have had concerning a believer’s desire to draw near to his Savior during the act of formal corporate worship.

A common complaint against formal organized worship is the statement “I just didn’t get anything out of it”, as though the worship service is designed to entertain and inspire the worshiper. This belies a chronic misunderstanding of Who the service is principally pointed towards. The question when it comes to the worship of the Creator of the universe is not what we take from it but instead what we bring to it. Isa. 29:13 says: “The Lord says: “These people come near to me with their mouth and honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me. Their worship of me is based on merely human rules they have been taught.” The ingredients of the worship service such as the creeds, the music, and the means of grace are not intended to entertain the worshiper, but to turn the worshiper’s focus to the One who is worthy of worship.

Any human endeavor that is cherished requires preparation and dedication. No team expects to make it to the Super Bowl just by merely showing up at the games and hoping it all turns out the way they want. Similarly no one should expect to show up to worship unprepared and expect to receive anything of any significance. True worship requires preparation such as meditation, prayer, and daily private worship.

But, just as no team depends solely on their preparations prior to the game, but is expected to execute those preparations during the contest, so a worshiper who seeks true communion with God needs to execute those prior preparations during the service. Corporate worship is not merely an exercise for the choir and the pastor, but is a spectator sport requiring the participation of the congregants, both physically and spiritually. This involves embracing the sentiments of the creeds, singing and reflecting on the words of the Psalms and hymns, and applying the lessons of the Scriptures and the sermon. Only when we discipline ourselves to divert the worship of our own desires and pleasures toward that which God desires and what pleases Him will we indeed “get something” from a worship service.

“Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name; bring an offering and come before him. Worship the LORD in the splendor of his holiness” I Chron 16:29. May we truly offer a sacrifice of praise as we enter into His gates with thanksgiving and into His courts with praise.

In HIS Service,
Richard Moore

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 – Recovery Back injury
 Goulder, Helen – Brookhaven Senior Living
 Goulder, Martha Jean – Shut In
 Lineberger, Rachael
 Locke, Mike - (Vickie’s brother)Health Issues
 London, Peggy
 Lupinsky, Logan
 Jackson, Delois – Pam’s Mom – Health issues
 McCain, Pat – Health Issues
 McCain, Ken – Health Issues
 McCain, Kenny – Health Issues
 Moncla, Luke

Moore, Martha Lou – Shut in
 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 – Health Issues
 Wells, Whit – Health Issues
 White, Bob – Car Wreck
 Williams, Sandy – (Huffman family)Cancer
 Wilson, Glenda – Bone Cancer
 Winford, Sherry – Health issues
 Yarbro, Ina – Back Issues
 Young, Robert – Heart Issues
 Young, Lois – Heart Issues

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

January 8 Mr. and Mrs. Nick Goulder

NURSERY ATTENDANTS

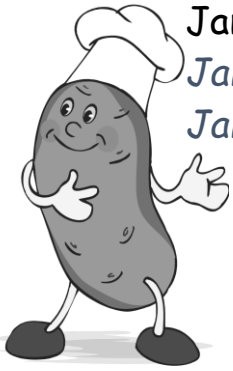
January 1	Alton Woods
January 8	Chris Woods
January 15	Denise Moore
January 22	Helen Woods
January 29	Leslie Alsbrook

CHILDRENS SERMON

January 1	No Message
January 8	
January 15	
January 22	
January 29	

January Menu

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS



Jan 11 Chili Dogs
 Jan 18 Potato Bar
 Jan 25 Family Night

Cost: \$3.00 person
 \$10.00 Family

- | | |
|---------------------|------------------------|
| 1 Beth Crum | 17 Phillip Trotter |
| 2 Linda Clarke | 18 Adyson Joy Brubaker |
| 3 Mary Pannell | Jeremy Bridges |
| 7 Carol Templeton | 19 Johnny Yarbro |
| Pat McCain | 23 Robert Cavin |
| 10 Rachel Young | 24 Edith Hanks |
| 12 Kinney Bridges | Linda Bridges |
| 13 Chelsea Larson | 26 John Hugues |
| 16 Jeremy Herring | 28 London Hill |
| Martha Jean Goulder | 31 John Carlyle Ruffin |

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

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.

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

CALLED CONGREGATIONAL MEETINGS
 Sunday January 15 Installation of Officers

