

The Brighton Light

BRIGHTON ARP CHURCH

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JULY 2011: 'Free Indeed' "We are Abraham's seed, and have never been in bondage to anyone. How can you say, 'You will be made free?' Jesus answered them 'Most assuredly, I say to you, whoever commits sin is a slave to sin. And a slave does not abide in the house forever, but a son abides forever. Therefore if the Son sets you free, you shall be free indeed.'" (John 6:33-36)

In the Children's message on May 29th, John made the statement, "Freedom is not free". Perhaps we Americans much too often take for granted and indeed have forgotten that all the freedoms and liberties which we have truly are not free, but have been guarded and kept by the blood of fellow Americans over the history of our nation. What is deadly for our nation is the fact that the 'not' understanding of this truth has filtered down into virtually every arena of our nation.

Earthly freedoms and liberties are fragile but can be maintained as a nation's people remain vigilant and protect these tenuous freedoms and liberties. There are those who wish to diminish the fact that it was the direct influence of godly men and women who helped shape our historical freedom documents, as well as the truth of how our founding fathers looked to the Bible to gain inspiration on setting up our government. As our nation's citizenry takes a back seat in personal involvement in the working of our nation, we find that our federal government has become bold in its dictates. One important area is our religious freedoms. Many authorities want to see any mention of God completely taken out of the everyday life of the American public (especially Christianity).

Over these past 30 or so years, our freedoms and liberties have gradually been restricted and we did not seem to realize what was going on. We believed that our politicians had our best interest in mind. These changes did not come over night. If too much change happened too quickly perhaps many would have raised their voices in protest. The old 'frog in the kettle' comes to mind. The problem is that we have now grown so accustomed to all these government takeovers, entitlements and subsidies that we yell and kick our feet when there are efforts to bring us back from the brink.

When we speak of Christian freedom, it does mean I can do what I want to do (read Rom. 6). Our freedom in Christ Jesus flows from the inerrant word of God. We can now live a life pleasing to our Lord. It is only in Jesus that the bonds of sin, death and hell can be broken. It is only in Jesus that the sin-gulf between God and man can be breached.

This freedom releases the believer of the uncertainty of life, the feeling that there is something more I must do, to name few. Where earthly freedom can change overnight with the change of government, freedom in Christ Jesus is based in Who He is. This means when He gives freedom it can never be voted out or overruled. This act of giving is immutable (unchangeable) as is His very character. Let us rejoice that; "if the Son makes you free you shall be free indeed." (John 8:36) For us it is free, but it cost Jesus.

Isn't it wonderful that in these tumultuous times we can have such a peace of mind which the freedom in our Lord brings to our troubled minds and hearts? Listen to the words from the hymn 'I Know Who Holds Tomorrow'; "I don't know about tomorrow, it may bring me poverty; but the One who feeds the sparrow, is the one who stands by me. And the path that be my portion, may be through the flame or flood, but His presence goes before me and I'm covered with His blood. Many things about tomorrow, I don't seem to understand, but I know who holds tomorrow, and I know who holds my hand." We can have freedom at last because Jesus holds the now and all the tomorrows.

Yours In Christ, Meredith

Meredith

SERMON SCRIPTURE SELECTIONS FOR THE MONTH:

July 3	John 8:31-36; Romans 5:14-21 "Do We Really Understand?"
July 10	Isaiah 52:1-10 "Freedom Comes From the Lord"
July 17	Romans 10:8-15 "The Lord's Wonderful Salvation"
July 24	John 17:15-23 "What Does Jesus Pray For?"
July 31	Galatians 6:11-18 "What I Boast In"



WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

July 5	Mr. and Mrs. John R. Moore
July 11	Mr. and Mrs. Alton Woods
July 24	Mr. and Mrs. Larry Crum
July 28	Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Molder

NURSERY ATTENDANTS

July 3	Molly Huffman
July 10	Joanna Simonton
July 17	Ashley Goulder
July 24	Linda Boswell
July 31	Stephanie Moore

FLOWERS FOR THE MONTH

Margarette Sherrill

July 24	Crum Family In Honor of Larry and Beth's Anniversary and Paige Dickey's Birthday
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CHURCH HAPPENINGS - JULY

3	9:00 a.m.	Men's Ministry Meeting
	12:00 p.m.	Session Meeting
	6:00 p.m.	Adult/Youth Bible Studies
10	12:00 p.m.	Diaconate Meeting
	3:30 p.m.	Women's Ministry Meeting
	4:30 p.m.	Margaret Sherrill Meeting
	6:00 p.m.	Adult/Youth Bible Studies
14	TBA	Senior Outing
		Swim Party at Ripley
17	6:00 p.m.	Adult/Youth Bible Studies
19	7:00 p.m.	Recovery from Loss Meeting
23	6:00 p.m.	Family Game Night
27	6:00 p.m.	Ice Cream Social
26	6:00 p.m.	Adult/Youth Bible Studies



SICK AND SHUT INS:

Mary Frances Bennett	Swayne Huffman
Mel Billings Sr.	Lucy Krull
Mike Boswell	Don Legler
Rick Boswell	Adam Lewis
Don Brown	Racheal Lineberger
Pam Bundy	Ann Locke
Cov. ARP Church	Logan Lupinsky
Michael Culver	Julia McCormick
Cooper Curtis	Luke Moncla
Louise Dungy	Martha Lou Moore
John Fletcher	Mike Otis
Betty Frazier	Carolyn Patrick
Helen Goulder	Geraldine Rhodes
Kim Gray	Laura Sanders
Melanie Griffin	Sarah Smith
Dana Hill	Cecil Starnes
Joy Hill	Jimmy Trotter
Doris Hodges	Joshlin Walter
Linda Huffman	Michael Wells
Barbara (Shelly's Daughter)	

JULY BIRTHDAYS

1	Julia Moore	19	Alton Woods
	Martha Lou Wylie		Taylor Smith
2	Jimi Kaye Yarbro	21	Don Legler
3	Kaleb Pugh		Rebecca Rowell
5	Amy Starnes	22	Paige Dickey
	Brad Templeton		Sean Curtis
	Sandra Harris		Amber Smith
6	June Trotter	24	Billy Trotter
7	Ann Blackmon		Chrystal Harris
8	Christopher Miller	25	Brian Crum
9	Joe Griffin		Denise Moore
	Mike Paladino		Jay Rettig
10	Owen Boswell		Joy Hill
13	Barbara Guthrie		Marcie Goulder
	Shelia Brubaker	26	Linda Boswell
15	Jean Tyler	27	Jan Allen Pannell
	Stephen Boswell	28	Mary Frances Smith
17	Jeff Huffman		Paul Shannon Boswell
	Makayla Boswell	30	Jennifer Leek
18	Angelica Wells		
	Verlie Wells, III		

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 Keith Trotter. If you have any requests for the deacons, please contact Keith at 901-476-9980.

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.

MISSION WORK TRIP to French Camp, MS will be July 4th -8th. Please keep these Mission workers in your prayers.

MVP CAMP is July 11th-16th at the Camp of the Rising Son, French Camp Ms. Please keep this upcoming camp and campers in your prayers.

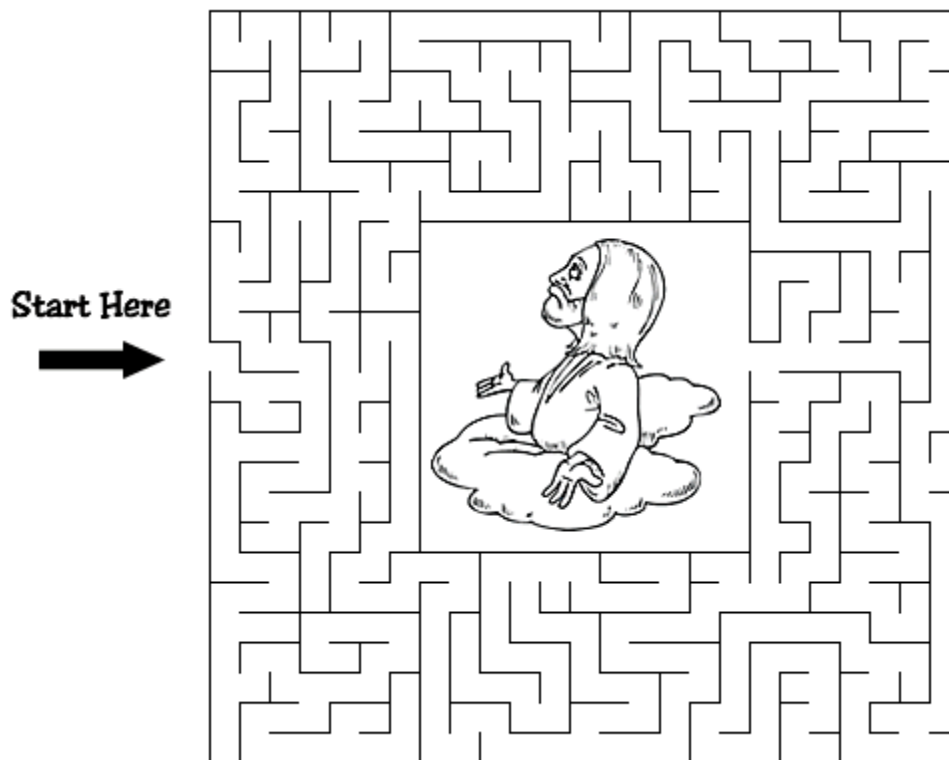
Joanna and Mary Grace Simonton, Kirsten Rettig, Emily Kirk, Lilly Alsbrook, Andrew Cavin, Michael and Christopher Miller, and Austin Starnes.

PLEASE NOTE: On Thursday July 14th there will be a Swim Party at the Ripley Water Park from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. The entire church is invited to this event.

PLEASE NOTE: On Wednesday July 27 at 6:00 P.M. there will be an Ice Cream Social.

Children's Corner

The Ascension of Jesus



After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes,
and a cloud hid him from their sight.

Acts 1:9 (NIV)