

# The Brighton Light

BRIGHTON ARP CHURCH

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**MARCH 2012: GOD IS THE RESTORER OF LIFE!** "Give ear O Shepherd of Israel, You who lead Joseph like a flock. Stir up Your strength, and come and save us! Restore us, O God; cause Your face to shine, and we shall be saved!" (Psalm 80:1a, 2b, 3)

Our Lord God has always been the restorer of people and of life. To say that God is the restorer presupposes that folks have always been in need of being restored. The act of restoration goes far beyond something merely being given back to me, as I would restore an item I may have broken which had been borrowed. It is God's working to restore life in a person who is dead because of sin.

Our first parents, Adam and Eve were in need of our Lord's restoring power in their sad lives. Satan deceived them into questioning God's word and then in one act of sinful disobedience took and ate that which God had specifically told them not to do. Because of this one act of disobedience they were driven from the place of rest and peace to a world that was now harsh and unforgiving, truly a harsh reality. They went from having the Lord walk and talk with them in the garden to being separated from their loving Lord. However, God would not forsake them. His plan of restoration would begin to be unfolded.

The reality is that there are consequences to our flawed, sinful decision making processes. It is because of that first act of sinful disobedience that sin entered every person's life from Adam forward. It is because of that one sin that every person born is incapable of restoring life by their own strength or ability. To show how much this is so, scriptures teach; "There is none righteous, no, not one; there is none who understands; there is none who seek after God. They have together become unprofitable; there is none who does good, no, not one." (Romans 3:10-12)

It is for this very reason that the Psalmist calls us to look to God and Him alone to restore. God alone is the worker of true restoration. Satan and his domain are all about the destruction and death of God's creation. The Psalmist understood something which escapes many within the church today. He knew he could call upon God's presence and that would for sure do the saving of His people. The Psalmist also knew that his God was the covenant Keeper, unlike His people. The Bible shows that we have always been the covenant breakers. We are always standing in need of our Lord's restorative work in our lives. Thanks be to God, He loves us so! He will never turn away from His own.

Jesus, God-the-Son, is where a person can find complete restoration, a new life. Jesus reminds us; "Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death to life." (John 5:24) The divine imperative is two-fold. "For all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God." (Romans 3:23) And "by grace you have been saved, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works lest any should boast." (Eph. 2:8&9) Jesus "is the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father but by Me." (John 14:6)

Friends, allow the words of the Psalmist to penetrate our hearts; "Restore us, O God; cause Your face to shine, and we shall be saved! (Psalm 80:3) This must be important for it is repeated three times. As we humbly look to Him and trust Him, He will restore us, He will give us life and this life will be in abundance.

Yours in His grace, Meredith

## SERMON SCRIPTURE SELECTIONS FOR THE MONTH:

March 4	John 5:22-30 "Life Is What We Need"
March 11	Psalm 85 "The Lord Will Give What is Good"
March 18	REVIVAL – Romans 8:26-39 "God in the Valley"
March 25	Psalm 80 "What We Need Now"



### WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

March 15	Mr. and Mrs. Brad Templeton
March 17	Mr. and Mrs. Jonathan Hill
March 28	Mr. and Mrs. Johnny Yarbro

### NURSERY ATTENDANTS

March 4	Stephanie Moore
March 11	Amanda Heath
March 18	Margarette Alsbrook
March 25	Rhonda Goulder

### FLOWERS FOR THE MONTH

Harriett Linderman Circle

Mar 11	The Heaths/Margarette Alsbrook In Honor of Ms Molly Huffman
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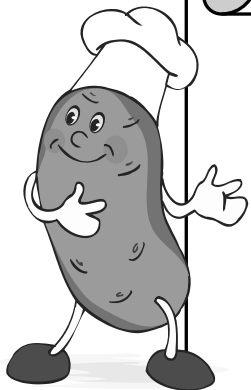
### SICK AND SHUT INS:

Bennett, Mary Frances	Lewis, Adam
Billings, Mel Sr	Lineberger, Rachael
Boswell, Mike	Locke, Ann
Boswell, Rick	Locke, Mike
Brown, Don	Lupinsky, Logan
Bundy, Pam	McCormick, Julia
Cavin, Henry	Miller, Jason
Culver, Michael	Moncla, Luke
Curtis, Cooper	Montgomery, Madelyn
Dungy, Louise	Moore, Martha Lou
Fletcher, John	Moss, Charlie
Frazier, Betty	Motes, Cindy
Goulder, Helen	Otis, Mike
Griffin, Melanie	Patrick, Carolyn
Harpe, Karen Cavin	Rhodes, Geraldine
Hill, Dana	Sanders, Laura
Hill, Joy	Sigmon, Jaime
Hodges, Doris	Smith, Sarah
Huffman, Linda	Starnes, Cecil
Huffman, Swayne	Trotter, Jane
Krull, Lucy	Walter, Joshlin
Legler, Don	Welch, Jack

## Menu for March

Mar 7	Lasagna
Mar 14	Chicken Pot Pie
Mar 21	REVIVAL - Pizza for Youth
Mar 28	Family Night

Cost: \$3.00 person  
\$10.00 Family



### MARCH BIRTHDAYS

1 Helen Woods	16 Ben Cavin
3 William Clayton Pannell	Sherry Bailey
5 William Pannell	17 Whitney Smith
6 Clay Yarbro	18 Kay Hernandez
Leyna Cannon	19 Joanna Simonton
9 William Carter	20 Keith Trotter
10 Andrea Trotter	21 McCallie Ruffin
Joni Glass	22 Bobbie Goulder
11 Cathy Morgan	23 Jimmy Trotter
Floyd Columbus	25 Peggy Huffman
Margarette Huffman	27 Pam Yarbro
14 Wanda Starnes	Zac Scott

**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 Verlie Wells, IV. If you have any requests for the deacons, please contact Verlie at 901-326-7545.

**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.

**CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY** is extended to the Trotter family at the death of Mr. Billy Trotter who died Wednesday, February 29. Please continue to keep this family in your prayers in the weeks to come.

**RECOVERY OF LOSS MEETING:** This support group meets every 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday at 7 P.M. in the Prayer Room. The group is lead by Ms. Laura Saunders. This meeting is for anyone who is going through trials of life and needs someone to talk to and pray with. The scriptures remind us to, "Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep. Be of the same mind toward one another." (Romans 12:15-16a)

**PLEASE NOTE:** Senior Outing will be meeting Thursday March 8<sup>th</sup> at the Church to plan for our April meeting where our Counties Extension Agency will be presenting the program.

**PLEASE NOTE:** Men's Ministry will be participating in the Brighton Bands Spring Car Show and Festival on March 17<sup>th</sup>. They will have a booth set up selling Loaded Fries. Come out and support the men and bring a friend!

**PLEASE NOTE:** On Saturday, March 24 Erskine College will host a dinner and program at the Richland ARP Church from 6:00 – 7:30. In it we will explore the challenges of living out the Christian faith in a post-Christian world, the importance of equipping young people to do so through higher Christian education, and the part the ARP church is playing through Erskine College and Seminary. Our guest speakers will be Buddy Ferguson, Director of Alumni Affairs, Dr. Mark Ross, Professor of Theology, and Dr. Steve Lowe, Interim Vice President over Erskine Seminary. We invite your participation, and in order to plan adequately, will need an RSVP by March 16. For more information, contact Rev. Joey Donahue at 388-5885, or 335-2935. Thank you.

**CONGRATULATIONS** to Alexi Starnes who was chosen Academic All-Stars. Way to go Alexi!

**CONGRATULATIONS** to Mary Grace Simonton who took first place in her swim meet. Her time was 28.14 which is a S.E.C. time (Southern Eastern Conference). This is a college A time. Way to go Mary Grace.

**REVIVAL:** Revival is March 18 – 21. Let each of us pray for Rev. T.J. Gentry who will be preaching our Revival services.

### **Revival Services Topics**

Sunday Morning	"God in the Valley" – Romans 8:26-39
Sunday Evening	"The Way of Escape, Part 1" – I Corinthians 10:1-13
Monday Devotional (Lunch)	"Developing a Heart for Evangelism" – Various
Monday Evening	"The Way of Escape, Part 2" – I Corinthians 10:1-13
Tuesday Devotional (Lunch)	"Developing a Head for Evangelism" – Various
Tuesday Evening	"The Way of Escape, Part 3" – I Corinthians 10:1-13
Wednesday Devotional (Lunch)	"Developing a Habit for Evangelism" – Various
Wednesday Evening	"Remember Your Creator" – Ecclesiastes 12:1-7