

The Brighton Light

BRIGHTON ARP CHURCH

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MAY 2009: The Nurturing Church

"...but that the members should have the same care one for another."
(1 Corinthians 12:25b)

It is sad but true we live in an increasingly fragmented, self-seeking, self-fulfilling and hurting society. It seems people are so focused in on themselves that they don't hear the cries and pleas for help around them. What is striking is their lives are crumbling and they don't even know it until it is too late. I am reminded of Jesus' words: "Now everyone who hears these sayings of Mine, and does not do them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand: and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it fell. And great was the fall." (Matt.7:26&27)

Our radical individualistic society is falling apart. Honesty and loyalty, to name a few, are sadly lacking in corporate and individual dealings in the business and private sectors. One can blame this one or that one, but the truth is there is a lack of integrity across the board. It seems that too many are doing what is right in their eyes with no regard for others or who will be hurt by these lies and deceptive schemes. When these are caught, they complain and say; "Why didn't someone warn me? Where is God in all of this? Our loving heavenly Father has not moved, has and will not sever the lines of communication. We have moved away from Him! We have kept Him at arms length! We have listened to the voices promoting the easy way, the wrong way! Jesus says; "No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve two masters." (Matthew 6:24)

To whom will those outside the church and in church turn to? To whom can these run to for help in these times of need? First, run and fall on the rock of our salvation, then repent of our sin of pride, which is at the center of all this and more. Also the church needs to step up to the plate and be the body of Christ.

As the body of Christ we must allow the light to shine through our lives, our actions and our words. We must regain the nurturing aspect to which we are all called which the Apostle Paul admonishes to do, first in the church and then to the world. "And if one member suffers, all the

members suffer with it..." (1 Corinthians 12:26a) I would need a calculator to show how many times my mother soothed my hurts, my pains and helped me through my failures. How often did Jesus seek to comfort, not only His chosen ones, but also those of Jerusalem: "O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the one who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, as a hen would gather her chicks, but you were not willing." (Matthew 23:37)

O my dear friends, how Jesus longs to gather us to Himself, to gather the lost ones to Himself! Have the heart of a mother. Have the heart of Jesus. Be the light, the salt and the salve which will bring healing and help. The Body of Christ is where people can find peace in midst of the storms of life, where a safe haven is found, where true love and acceptance in Jesus is experienced. We are the body!

Your Pastor,

Meredith Cavin

SERMON SCRIPTURE SELECTIONS FOR THE MONTH:

May 3	Acts 3:9-23 "True Refreshment"
May 10	II John "Effects of the Christian Mother"
May 17	I Peter 3:8-18 "Sustaining Power in our Lives"
May 24 (Ascension Sunday)	Ephesians 1:7-23 "Results of the Ascension"
May 31	John 14:15-27 "Blessings of His Children"

THE DEACON OF THE MONTH is Harry Hugues. If you have any requests for the deacons, please contact Harry at 837-4965.

FLOWERS FOR THE MONTH

Mary Steele Circle

May 10	In Memory Of MR. JEFFERY W. HEATH and In Honor Of Her Mother and Four Sisters Given By Mrs. Barbara Heath
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May 17	In Honor Of MRS. BARBARA FREEMAN Given By Mrs. Denise Moore
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WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES FOR THE MONTH

May 18 Mr. and Mrs. Andy Alsbrook
May 20 Mr. and Mrs. Peter Simonton
May 23 Mr. and Mrs. Billy Trotter
May 27 Mr. and Mrs. Kevin Heath
May 29 Mr. and Mrs. Mark Smith
May 29 Mr. and Mrs. Gilbert Rowell

NURSERY ATTENDANTS FOR THE MONTH

May 3 Joanna Simonton
May 10 Amanda Heath
May 17 Robin Gravley
May 24 Rhonda Goulder
May 31 Linda Boswell

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL will be held on June 21st – 25th this year. If you would like to help with VBS in any way, please contact Linda Boswell.

THE WOMEN'S MINISTRY is working on a new church cookbook. Please submit your favorite recipes to be put in the cookbook. Guys, we need your barbecue recipes and tips. Please print or type this on an 8 ½ x 11 piece of paper. There will be a box in the kitchen where you can put your recipes.

THE BONCLARKEN GIFT BRUNCH will be held on Saturday, May 30th from 10:00 A.M. until 11:30 A.M. Monetary donations will be accepted or you may bring handmade items for the Gift Shop.

THE NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER was designated by the United States Congress as a day when people come together and pray for our country. On April 17, 1952, President Harry Truman signed a bill proclaiming a National Day of Prayer. In 1988, President Ronald Reagan fixed the National Day of Prayer as the first Thursday in May of each year. This year there will be a "Prayer on the Square" devotional program that will be the official, local, National Day of Prayer event. There will be a devotional and music and free food as we come together to pray for our country. Our "Prayer on the Square" event will take place on the north side of the Tipton County Courthouse in Covington. The event starts at noon on Thursday, May 7, 2009 and the program will last about 30 minutes. Join fellow Tipton Countians and help us observe our National Day of Prayer on the historic Tipton County Court Square.

Jeff Huffman, Tipton County Executive

PLEASE NOTE: If you have any ideas or suggestions for the church website, please contact Chris Gravley, webmaster, at 901-372-3995 or e-mail at chris_gravley@bellsouth.net.

A MISSIONS MINUTE

IT IS TIME FOR OUR JUBILEE BIRTHDAY PARTY! All women are cordially invited to attend our Jubilee Birthday Party today during the Women's Ministry meeting at 4:00 P.M. The Jubilee Birthday party gifts provide funds which are sent directly to World Witness to provide for the financial support of two missionaries. One of our "birthday ladies" is Judi Hodges, who has written from the mission field in Germany, "Please extend my heartfelt thanks to the ladies of our denomination. Their support has kept me on the field the last few years when many of my colleagues have had to return home due to financial problems. The Family Center opens its doors because of your giving. It is fruitful and effective because the women have **prayed!**" Please come out and be a part of this exciting missions opportunity with your time, your prayers and your financial support.

Susan Cavin

CONGRATULATIONS to Mrs. Amanda Heath. Amanda was one of the recipients of the "Outstanding Women in Tipton County" awards.

CONGRATULATIONS to Christina and Chuck Baker on the birth of their daughter, Olivia Lynn. Olivia was born on Monday, April 13th. She weighed 7lbs. and 2 oz. and was 19 ½ inches long.

YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED to attend the National Day of Prayer Service sponsored by the South Tipton County Ministerial Association, to be held at the South Tipton Assembly of God Church, Thursday, May 7th at 7:00 P.M. There will also be a National Day of Prayer meeting at 12:00 Noon on this day at the Board Room of Brighton Town Hall. Everyone is encouraged to attend these services.

PLEASE NOTE: The 2009 Family Bible Conference will be held July 20th through July 23rd at the Bonclarken Conference Center. Registration forms are in the church office. Bonclarken has already begun to accept registration forms and reservations for this event. Everyone who is able is encouraged to attend this event.

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR FOLLOWING STUDENTS:

Alec-Thomas Ruffin, 5th grade, made the honor roll for the 3rd nine weeks period at Brighton Elementary School.

McCallie Ruffin, 8th grade, made the honor roll for the 3rd nine weeks period at Brighton Middle School. She was also chosen student of the month for March and was a 2nd place winner in the Tennessee History Bee.

Jack Ruffin, freshman at Brighton High School, made the honor roll for the 3rd nine weeks period.

Sarah Cavin was on the Dean's List at UTM at Ripley.

Ben Cavin was on the A-B Honor Roll at Brighton High School.

Andrew Cavin was on the Principal's All A Honor Roll, and received "Most Reliable" and "Perfect Attendance" in Mrs. Jolly's class.