

The Brighton Light

BRIGHTON ARP CHURCH

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DECEMBER 2009: 'How do we treat the Christ of Christmas?' "Therefore God has also highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on the earth, and of those under the earth, and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father." (Philippians 2:9-11)

By now you all know I'm like a big kid when it comes to Christmas. To see my children and grandchildren enjoy Christmas fills me such joy. I love all the beautiful decorations, the wonderful smells of Christmas, but, most of all I am filled with such a great sense of awe and humility for the God Who loved me so much "that He gave His only begotten Son". I didn't and still don't deserve it but He gives it unconditionally out of His almighty love and mercy.

Therefore, let me ask us this question: how do we treat the Christ of Christmas? As we sing the many Christmas carols so much emphasis is given to the infant Child that there may be a danger of missing the point of Jesus' virgin birth by keeping Him in the manger. This could, in turn, cause us to treat this blessed event much like a mythological story. It may make us feel warm and fuzzy inside but the feeling will soon pass.

Jesus, Emmanuel, grew up just like the other Jewish babies of His day with all the hardships and struggles which a poor Jewish family had to endure. As Jesus grew and learned from Joseph how to be a good carpenter, He must have had times where He hit the wrong nail and picked many splinters out of His rough but gentle hands.

We fail to remember what the scriptures teach about the promised Messiah: "For He shall grow before Him as a tender plant, and a root out of dry ground: He has no form or comeliness; and when we see Him, there is no beauty that we should desire Him." (Isaiah 53:2) And from Hebrews 4:15; "For we have not a high priest which cannot be touched by our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like each of us, yet without sin." Praise God for these truths!

This Christmas event was God's plan being brought into action for a fallen human race. This miraculous plan is where the Sovereign God makes it possible for a sinful person to see, experience, understand and receive forgiveness and salvation. God brought His plan into action in a way which baffled those who were expecting the Messiah to come in some spectacular way.

Our God does the unexpected through His unexpected means and I am glad He does. This Jesus Who came to earth as a helpless baby, will come again as the glorious, conquering King. Stop, and take the time to allow Jesus to fill us with His love, joy and peace which are gifts which we all need.

May the Christ of Christmas pour His blessings into our lives as we experience Him in new and fresh ways that we may be carried to greater heights of service for His Kingdom. Have a blessed Christmas!

With love from the Cavin family

SERMON SCRIPTURE SELECTIONS FOR THE MONTH:

December 6	I Chronicles 17:16-27 "The Eternal Kingdom"
December 13	Psalms 33:8-22 "The Hope of the Nations"
December 20	Isaiah 11:1-10 "Lest We Forget"
December 27	I John 4:7-19 "How to Respond to So Great a Love"

THE DEACON OF THE MONTH for December is Nick Goulder. If you have any requests for the deacons, please contact Nick at 837-3532.

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES FOR THE MONTH

December 12 Mr. and Mrs. Kinney Bridges
December 19 Mr. and Mrs. Zane Hill

FLOWERS FOR THE MONTH

Harriet Linderman Circle

December 13 In Honor of
MS. MARGARETTE ALSBROOK
Given by Miss Molly Anne Heath
December 20 – Poinsettias

NURSERY ATTENDANTS FOR THE MONTH

Dec. 6 – Joanna Simonton
Dec. 13 – Rhonda Goulder
Dec. 20 – Amanda Heath
Dec. 27 – Rhonda Goulder

PLEASE NOTE: 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.

THE MARY STEELE CIRCLE will meet with Mr. and Mrs. Richard Moore for their Christmas meeting, dinner, and party on Saturday, December 12th at 6:00 P.M.

THE HARRIET LINDERMAN CIRCLE will meet with Ashley Goulder for their Christmas meeting, dinner, and party on Saturday, December 12th at 6:30 P.M.

THE CHRISTMAS PLAY AND SUNDAY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PARTY will be on Wednesday, December 16th at 6:00 P.M. The Christmas Play will be first, followed by the Christmas Party and a time of refreshments and fellowship. Please bring finger foods for the Christmas party and remember to bring extra food to be used for the Christmas plates to be delivered to the sick and shut-ins.

THE CHRISTMAS CANTATA AND CANDLELIGHTING SERVICE will be on Sunday, December 20th at 5:00 P.M. Please be sure to attend this beautiful service and invite your family and friends.

THE ANNUAL CHRISTMAS CAROLING is scheduled for Friday, December 18th at 5:30 P.M. The group will visit the sick and shut-ins and others in the area bringing plates of goodies and the gift of song. Everyone is invited to participate.

THE WOMEN'S MINISTRY COOKBOOKS are now available. The cost is \$10. If you would like to purchase a cookbook, please contact Linda Clarke or Sarah Cavin.

PLEASE TURN IN your information for the church yearbook as soon as possible. Please inform the church office of any changes or corrections that need to be made as well.

OUR CHURCH will have a float in the Munford Christmas parade on December 5th and in the Brighton Christmas parade on December 7th.