

The Brighton Light

BRIGHTON ARP CHURCH

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DECEMBER 2010: 'The Miraculous Ushered In By The Unexpected' "Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel." (Isa. 7:14) "For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given; and the government shall be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of His government there will be no end, upon the throne of David and over His kingdom, to order and establish it with judgment and justice from that time forward, even for evermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this." (Isaiah 9:6&7)

I sometimes wonder why those religious leaders at the time of our Lord's birth did not or could not understand the reports that had come to their ears concerning the birth of Jesus. Perhaps they were not expecting it. After all, hundreds of years have passed since the prophecies regarding the promised Messiah. It reminds me of what Peter said regarding the last days. "Knowing this first: that scoffers will come in the last days, saying, 'Where is the promise of His coming? For since the father's fell asleep, all things remain the same as they were from the beginning of creation.'" (2 Peter 3:3&4) Perhaps they simply did not believe the Messiah would ever come, which would have meant they did not believe God's word.

They and we forget what Isaiah reminds us; "For My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways My ways says the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts." (Isaiah 55:8&9) As finite minds cannot comprehend the vastness of God's doings, yet we do just that. We try and figure things out down to the details, and when they do not add up, we deny the possibility of something happening which cannot be empirically determined.

Our problem with disbelieving the virgin birth and the coming of the Messiah is secularism. We tend to equate Jesus with Santa. Our culture cannot tolerate anything which may hint of the miraculous. The very words Christmas and Merry Christmas offends the minds of those who desire to see everything related to Christianity eradicated from the public scene.

At the incarnation, God's miraculous means of providing salvation for the human race was taking place in the most unusual and unexpected way. A poor, completely unknown, unimportant virgin Jewish girl would conceive and bear a Son and was told to name Him Jesus, "for He will save His people from their sin." Those who were wise in their own understanding completely missed out on this unbelievable and earth shattering event. My prayer is that we would never grow tired of hearing this good news that Jesus, the promised Messiah, came fulfilling all scriptures, and His desire is to live in our lives that we would never forget His great love and care for us. May we experience the Lord Jesus in ways which allow us to sing a new song of praise to our God!

With Love,
Meredith
Have A Blessed Christmas!

Love, Meredith



SERMON SCRIPTURE SELECTIONS FOR THE MONTH:

December 5	Luke 3:1-6 "The Straight Path"
December 12	Zephaniah 3:14-20 "God's Awesome Faithfulness"
December 19	Micah 5:2-4a "Jesus, The One"
December 26	Luke 2:25-35 "Departing In Peace"

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

December 12	In Memory of MR. WOODROW SMITH Given by Boswell Family
December 20	- Poinsettias



NURSERY ATTENDANTS FOR THE MONTH

December 5	Margarette Alsbrook
December 12	Amanda Heath
December 19	Sarah Cavin
December 26	Rhonda Goulder

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.

THE DEACON OF THE MONTH is Larry Crumb. If you have any requests for the deacons, please contact Larry at 901-475-2746.

THE MARY STEELE CIRCLE will meet with Mr. and Mrs. Meredith Cavin for their Christmas meeting, dinner, and party on Friday, December 10th at 6:00 P.M.

THE HARRIET LINDERMAN CIRCLE will meet with Joanna Simonton for their Christmas meeting, dinner, and party on Friday, December 17th at 6:30 P.M.

THE CHRISTMAS PLAY AND SUNDAY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PARTY will be on Wednesday, December 15th 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 19th at 5:00 P.M. Please be sure to attend this beautiful service and invite your family and friends.

POINSETTIAS may be purchased in memory of or in honor of someone for the Worship and Candlelighting Service on Sunday, December 19th. You may take your plant home after the Candlelighting Service. The poinsettias are \$15 each. Your choice of Red or White poinsettias is available. You may pay by cash or checks payable to the Harriet Linderman Circle. There is a signup sheet in the vestibule for the orders. Contact Joanna Simonton at 476-7750 if you have any questions.

THE WOMEN'S MINISTRY still has cookbooks for sale. These would make wonderful gifts for any occasion. Please see Linda Clarke if you would like to purchase one (or several!).

CONGRATULATIONS: McCallie Ruffin, a sophomore at Brighton High School, who was chosen as an All -Regional tournament player in volleyball. She also made all A's for the 1st 9 weeks. Way to go McCallie!

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.

MR. AND MRS RANDY GOULDER and Mr. and Mrs. Eric Johnson would like to invite you to share in their joy of the marriage of their children Marcie Lynn to Nathan Michael on Saturday December 4th at 1:00 in the afternoon at the Brighton ARP Church.