

# The Brighton Light

BRIGHTON ARP CHURCH

81 Church St., Brighton, Tennessee 38011

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Volume LI

April 2019

Number 4

## “Fifteen Years”

I began seeing a new message appear on my computer screen about a week ago – Gmail was celebrating its 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary. It’s hard to believe that this email service has been around for fifteen years. Guess what else has also been around for fifteen years as of this month? Me, your pastor. I was ordained as a minister of the gospel by Mississippi Valley Presbytery on April 25, 2004, at the Ebenezer ARP Church in Blue Mountain, Mississippi.

A lot has happened in fifteen years. I served as an evangelist for one year in the Atlanta area. I pastored in Louisville, Kentucky, for nearly ten years. And now I have been at Brighton for about two-and-a-half years. To put that into perspective: I only taught high school mathematics for eleven years. I have now been in pastoral ministry for considerably longer than that.

When I first preached a sermon at Brighton before I was called as pastor, a member of the congregation asked me a very insightful question: If I were to come to Brighton, stay here fifteen years, and then retire, what would I consider a faithful ministry? It was a good question. My answer was simple: if I proclaimed the gospel of Jesus Christ and fed and guarded His flock, then that would be a faithful ministry. That answer seemed to satisfy the inquirer.

The Apostle Paul writes to the Corinthians, “I determined to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and Him crucified” (1 Cor 2:2). He tells the Philippians that for him, to live was Christ (Phil 1:21). For Paul, the message of Jesus Christ, of His atoning death and His resurrection, was central to all that he did. It was his very life.

The Lord Jesus Christ compared Himself to a shepherd in John 10. As the Good Shepherd, He lays down His life for His sheep (John 10:11). He guards and protects them. What else does a shepherd do? He feeds and leads the sheep for their good and God’s glory (Psalm 23:1-3). All of this serves as a model for pastors. They are to lead and feed God’s people with the Word of God, and they are to guard God’s people against the errors of false teachers and the deceitfulness of a world that is hostile to the gospel. And the faithful minister, above all else, holds forth Jesus Christ, the crucified and risen and reigning Savior, to God’s people. That is what effective gospel ministry should look like.

But as mere men, we are so often weak and seemingly ineffective in this task. We fall short of God’s glory in so many ways. Your words of encouragement are always helpful to me as a pastor, and your prayers are always appreciated. The work is often hard, but God’s people are more than worth it. This is the best “job” in the world.

What does the future hold? Hopefully, at a minimum, it will bring another fifteen years of faithful gospel ministry.

*Pastor Tim*



# Upcoming Events

**THE DEACON OF THE MONTH** is Chris Gravely. If you have any requests for the deacons, please contact him at 674-3851.

**PRAYER/VISITATION:** If anyone is sick, in need of prayer or a visit, please contact Milton Murphy at 901-476-2808.

**OUTREACH TEAM:** If you would like to participate in outreach or know of someone who needs a visit, please contact Milton Murphy.

## **WEDNESDAY SUPPER AT SIX MENU:**

- **April 3:** Mexican Night
- **April 10:** Fish Sticks, Green Beans, and Au Gratin Potatoes
- **April 17:** Sloppy Joes, Slaw, French Fries
- **April 24:** Family Night

**THE LORD'S SUPPER:** We will celebrate the sacrament of the Lord's Supper on April 7 during the morning worship service.

**MAUNDY THURSDAY:** The Maundy Thursday communion service will be held on April 18 at 7 p.m.

**EGG HUNT:** The annual Egg Hunt will be on Saturday, April 20, at 2 p.m. The people of the church are asked to donate individually-wrapped candy to go into goody bags for the children. The children participating are asked to bring 3 candy-filled eggs to hide

**SONRISE SERVICE:** "Rise and shine, for thy light has come." Join us at 7 a.m. on April 21 for an early worship service, followed by a breakfast provided by the Brighton Men's Ministry. At 11 a.m., there will be a worship service with a cantata by the choir and preaching by the pastor.

**SOUP!!!:** The Brighton's Women's Ministry will be hosting a soup luncheon after the morning worship service on Sunday, April 7. This fundraiser will support local outreach programs and other ARP works.

**PRAYER MEETING:** The church will begin holding monthly prayer meetings starting Saturday, April 13, at 7 p.m. These are open to the entire congregation, and everyone is encouraged to attend

**THE PASTOR RECOMMENDS:** *Grace Alone* by Carl Trueman. This book goes through the historical and biblical understanding of one of the key slogans of the Protestant Reformation: *Sola Fide* (Grace Alone). Grace is so important that we gave that name to our oldest child! But what does grace really mean? And how well do we understand God's grace? Read this book and find out!

**SPECIAL OFFERING:** Synod's annual Easter Offering, used to support the work of the ARP's various boards, agencies, and ministries, will be collected during the morning service later this month.

**NEW MAILING ADDRESS:** P.O. Box 28 will soon be inactive. Please direct all mail (other than bills) to 81 Church Street, Brighton, TN 38011.

**Website and Email** address for the church.

**Website:** <http://www.brightonarp.org>

**Email:** [baarp@att.net](mailto:baarp@att.net)

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)