

The Brighton Light

BRIGHTON ARP CHURCH

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Listen Carefully to This

I had a friend in high school who was a bit of a scoundrel. He was convinced that our senior English teacher was not reading our essays, so he put his theory to the test, and he did so more than once. One time, he wrote an essay in “invisible ink” (just an introductory sentence, a concluding sentence, and a lot of blank space in between). On another occasion, he turned in an essay that he wrote from the perspective of a toilet bowl. In neither case did the teacher ever say anything to him, thereby confirming his suspicion that she was not really reading the essays.

Sometimes preachers can feel like my friend from high school – that no one is really listening to us. But that’s not really anything new, because Jesus alludes to this in the Gospels. In Luke 9:44, Jesus tells His disciples, “Let these words sink into your ears.” He is talking about an important subject (His upcoming betrayal and death), and He wants them to listen very carefully to His words. And there are other times when Jesus makes it very clear that listening to His words is incredibly important (see Matthew 7:24-27). Giving our attention to the words of Jesus – and all of God’s word – is something we all must do. It demands our attention.

However, this is not always easy. So many other things strive for our attention, and in some cases, we are more than willing participants in the distraction. We may say that the word of God is important to us, but do our actions indicate otherwise? If we do value the word of God, then it should be central to everything we do. We will want to read it in our homes, and with our families. We will want to attend worship and listen carefully to the sermon that is being preached. It will affect the way we live. If we really believe this, then we will not take these things for granted.

At a previous church, I used to pick up an older gentleman who lived nearby and drive him to church so that he could attend Sunday school and the worship service. One morning when I picked him up, he told me that he had almost called to cancel. He said the men’s final of the Wimbledon tennis tournament was on that morning, and he wanted to watch that instead. He did choose wisely in the end, but that story illustrates the problem. A tennis match is not more important than attending worship and hearing the word of God proclaimed. It’s not even close.

Sometimes it bothers people that they can sit through sermon after sermon, week after week, and feel as if they are not really retaining anything. In response, let me use an example. I have three mathematics degrees. I have sat through more classes in mathematics than I can count. I probably remember fewer than a half dozen of the actual lectures I sat through. Does that mean I didn’t learn anything or that I did not benefit from those lectures? Of course not. Attending the classes, sitting through the lectures, and putting what I learned into practice – this is all a pretty good indication that I was listening carefully. It is similar with the word of God and us.

I was not a believer in high school, and I did not become a Christian until a few years later

while I was in college. One of the first things I did as a new believer was to write my friend a letter telling him what had happened to me, along with what I now believed. In high school, we were both the kinds of scoundrels who used to make fun of Christians. The Lord had changed my heart, and I wanted my friend to know about it. With that letter I included a Bible. Why? Because he needed the word of God, and he needed to know what it said more than anything else. It is the most important thing we can ever read, and it is the most important thing we can listen to. May we always listen carefully to the word of God.
 -- *Pastor Tim*

Prayer List:

Bennett, Mary F – Shut in
 Billings, Richard – (Denise’s Dad) Cancer
 Boswell, Charles - Cancer
 Boswell, Mike – Health issues
 Bridges, Lucille – Health Issues
 Bryant, Ty –Heart
 Columbus, Norma – Health Issues
 Goulder, Martha Jean – Shut In
 Rochell, Bobby – Cancer
 McCain, Pat – Health Issues
 Rivercity Reformed Presbyterain Church – Church plant in Little Rock Arkansas

McCain, Ken – Health Issues
 McCain, Kenny – Health Issues
 Molder, Jerry – Health Issues
 Pugh, Kaleb – (Laura Kiphart’s grandson)
 Williams, Sandy – (Huffman family)Cancer
 Wilson, Glenda – Bone Cancer
 Winford, Sherry – Health issues
 Yarbro, Ina – Health issues
 Landrum, Zoan – Covington Care

Military

Donahoo, Tim	Starnes, Austin	Hill, Debra	Billings, Tyler
Dooley, Rod	Heathman, Matthew	Young III, Robert “Trip”	

Missionaries

Coad, Jim & Gala	Rebekah Carson	Brunson, Andrew
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JUNE BIRTHDAYS

3 Rachel Lynn Goulder	13 Ruth Anne Goulder
6 Laura Kiphart	17 Stephanie Williams
Zane Hill	22 Alexi Starnes
7 Barbara Heath	23 Carolyn Sides
Mary Frances Bennett	24 Shane Maxwell
Susan Cavin	25 Faye Smith
8 Amanda Trotter	30 Leslie Alsbrook
Robert Rhodes	Marlee Smith
Richard Cannon	Sara Griffin
11 Colton Boswell	
Jerry Molder	

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

<i>June 16</i>	<i>Mr. and Mrs. John Scott</i>
<i>June 17</i>	<i>Dr. and Mrs. Meredith Cavin</i>
<i>June 23</i>	<i>Mr. and Mrs. Jordan Goulder</i>
<i>June 30</i>	<i>Mr. and Mrs. Tim Phillips</i>

NURSERY ATTENDANTS

June 3	Alton Woods
June 10	Brooklin
June 17	Ashley Goulder
June 24	Helen Woods

Upcoming Events

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.

THE DEACON OF THE MONTH is Chris Gravley. If you have any requests for the deacons, please contact Chris at 901-674-3851.

PLEASE NOTE If anyone is sick, in need of prayer or a visit, please contact Milton Murphy 901-476-2808.

PLEASE NOTE: The Session is developing a member outreach program. If you would like to participate in community outreach or know of someone who needs a pastoral visit, please contact Milton Murphy. We also need prayer warriors to enlist.

PLEASE NOTE: The Sunday Night Bible Study has been cancelled for the month of June and will resume in July.

PLEASE NOTE: There will be a Wednesday Night Bible Study through the summer.

PLEASE NOTE There will be Family Night Suppers during the Summer. That's the fourth Wednesday of each month. 6/20, 7/25, & 8/22.

PLEASE NOTE The Men's Ministry will be having a BBQ on July 3rd. Please see any Men's Ministry member for details.

PLEASE NOTE: There will be a Community Cookout on July 7th. Everyone is encouraged to participate and come out for a great time of Fellowship.

PLEASE NOTE MVP Camp forms are in. They will be in the office. Or you can go online and print them off. www.richlandarp.org/summer-youth-camp.html, Camp dates are July 23-28. Ages 3rd – 12th grade. Cost will be \$260.00. Forms and money are due by June 16th.

PLEASE NOTE: VBS is coming up. June 24 – 28. Ages – Toddler through 5th grade. Please see Julia Moore or Helen Woods if you would like to assist in any way.

CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY is extended to the Hopper family at the death of Mr Claude Hopper who died Sunday, May 27th. We also extend sympathy to the Trotter family at the death of Mrs Jane Trotter who died Monday, May 28th. Please continue to keep these two families in your prayers in the weeks to come.

PLEASE NOTE: This September, B.J. Maxwell will travel again with Catalyst Missions to Indonesia. After 4 years, the first class of graduates will complete final module of Pastor training. Visit bjmaxwell.com/Indonesia to help support this trip. Or, you can mail a check to Catalyst Missions, PO Box 449, Ellendale, TN 38029 noted "Maxwell Indonesia." See B.J. for any questions of further information.